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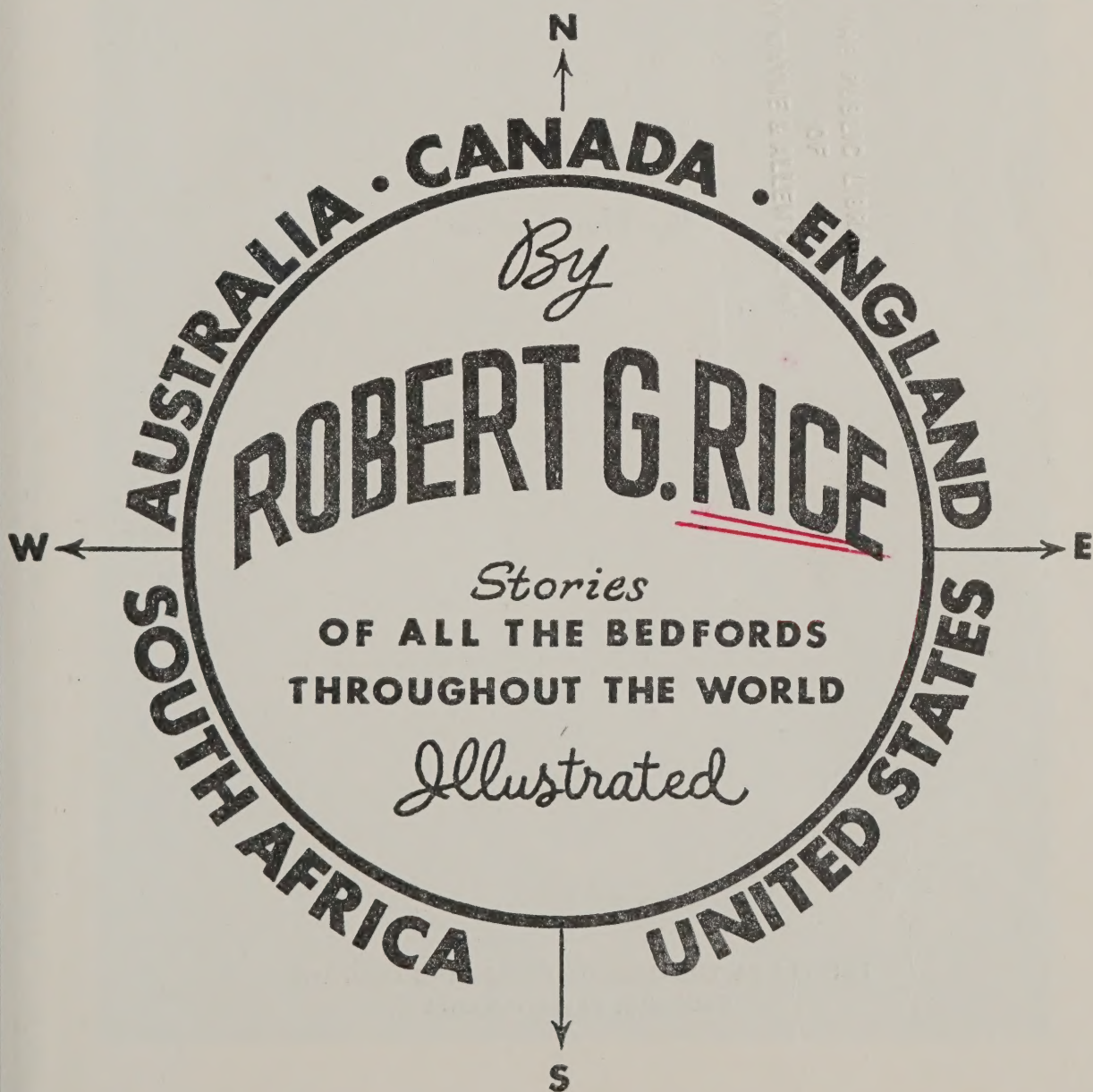


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THE BEDFORD STORY



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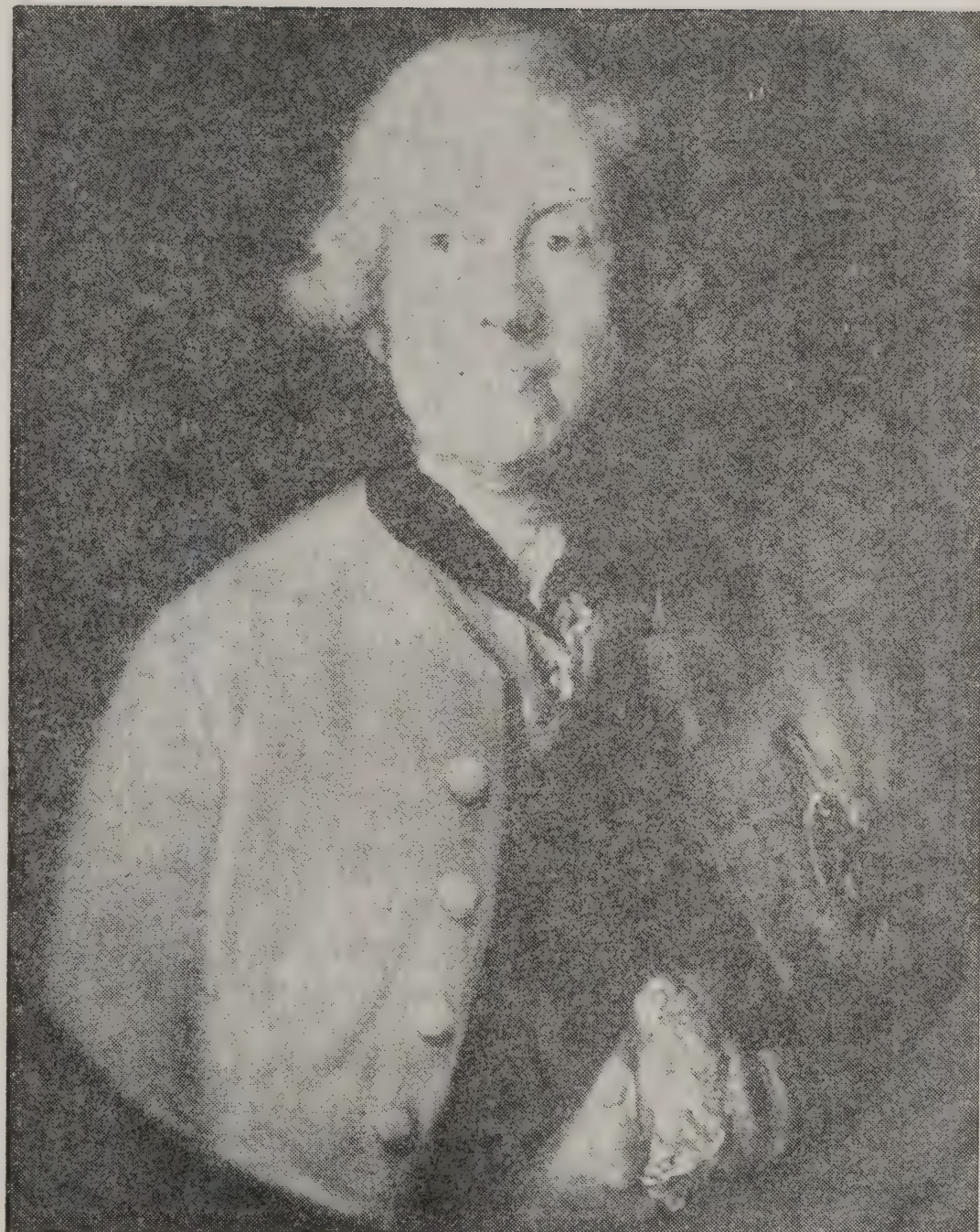
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TO LINDA,
PEGGY, BOBBY AND CHRIS



—British Information Services
The Fourth Duke of Bedford, 1710-1771

FOREWORD

The Bedford Story, after three years' preparation, attempts to throw its ray of light on life in Bedford.

That Bedford may be in the green hills of Pennsylvania; along the banks of the Ouse River in Merrie Old England; in the frozen wastelands of Canada's far north; "down under" in Australia, or part of the grazing lands in the Fish River territory of South Africa.

Probably all Bedford residents everywhere believe their Bedford is the best of all. And that is as it should be, for it is the people who make Bedford what it is.

It has not been an easy task to assemble information on the Bedfords throughout the world. Hundreds of letters were written in gathering the data. Many delays were experienced because of the distance involved.

But when all is considered, it was a most pleasant job which has built new friendships. Much of the correspondence initiated while the book was being written still is continuing between the author and residents of "the other Bedfords."

While The Bedford Story is not intended, and should not be considered, as a reference work, it does contain as nearly correct and accurate information as could be obtained.

ROBERT G. RICE

P. O. Box 66,
Bedford, Pa.

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Australia

BEDFORD CREEK, QUEENSLAND

Bedford Creek was named in 1889 by Surveyor G. A. Leonard in honor of Surveyor C. Twisden Bedford who carried out many surveys in this district. Bedford Creek is a tributary of the Murray River which flows into the Pacific Ocean between Tully and Cardwell in North Queensland.

BEDFORD PARISH, QUEENSLAND

Named after C. Twisden Bedford, surveyor, Bedford Parish is situated approximately 24 miles northeast of Hughenden. It covers about 83,840 acres.

Mainly grazing land, the parish consists of three sheep stations averaging 11,500 acres each and 50,000 acres of another station. Some 24,000 sheep are run in the parish.

Although population figures are not kept, it can be assumed that the number of people residing in the area would not exceed 40.

CAPE BEDFORD, QUEENSLAND

Cape Bedford was named by Captain James Cook of the "Endeavour" on August 4, 1770, after Lord John Russell, Fourth Duke of Bedford, who was lord president in the Granville administration (England), 1763-65.

Cook's journal describes it as being located in latitude 15 degrees 16 minutes south, longitude 24 degrees 45 minutes west. It is about 16 miles north of Cooktown and the mouth of the Endeavour River where Cook beached his ship for repairs.

The first mission to the aborigines of the Cape York Peninsula was established at Cape Bedford in 1886 under the charge of Johann Flierl, Lutheran missionary.

During the Second World War, the natives were evacuated to Woorabinda Government Settlement, but were returned to the care of the Lutheran Missions in 1949. The mission did not return to Cape Bedford, but to a site in the Cooktown area which was better suited for agricultural purposes.

Hope Valley Mission was founded in January, 1886, by Missionary Flierl, the pioneer of the Lutheran Mission in New Guinea.

The government of the day gave him every encouragement and support. Thus he established himself as missionary on the Cape Bedford Aboriginal Reserve, choosing for the settlement a spot on the bay, north of Cape Bedford, which he called Elim.

There were fine coconut palms at Elim, but soon after the clearing of the land it became evident that crops would not grow in this soil.

In 1900, Missionary Schwarz, who joined the mission in 1887, moved the station eight miles further towards Cape Bedford, where there was a sweet water swamp. Miles of drains were dug and when the swamp was dry, sweet potatoes and pineapples were planted. They appeared to thrive and coconut palms quickly shot up.

However, two years later not a sweet potato would grow and the pineapples ceased to thrive.

It was now 1903, but undaunted, Schwarz started the cultivation of sisal hemp. The plants seemed to do very well indeed. With 90 acres growing, the future seemed assured. The long white threads were sent to Sydney to be marketed, but back came the report: "The fibre is not good enough. There is something missing in the soil and thus it has not come to proper maturity."

Some sisal hemp plants still grow here and the women make thread from the fibre and manufacture mats.

In 1907, a cyclone made an almost complete wreck of the mission station, but Schwarz at once began rebuilding. The government extended the reserve to the McIvor River, 25 miles to the north of Hope Valley, at Cape Bedford. The red soil along the banks of the river gave promise of good crops, but it soon became evident that this soil, too, had no lasting qualities.

Meantime, beche-de-mer and trochus shell fishing proved a very remunerative undertaking, but following a drop in prices and the exhaustion of fishing grounds near at hand, this

activity became less profitable.

About this time, in 1934, the Queensland Government granted an extension of the reserve into country with good farming soil. The whole missionary establishment was re-organized at Springhill, in the south of the reserve, where the aborigines farmed arable land just outside the reserve.

The aborigines were no longer wild, bloodthirsty nomads. They had settled down to earn their food and clothing with the labor of their hands.

The mission school was the main medium of approach to the aborigines and in 1899, the government appointed Miss Mary Allan as teacher of the school at Cape Bedford. After her marriage to Schwarz in 1901, she continued in that capacity for 35 years, showing singular devotion and faithfulness to her work.

At present, there are 71 school children.

The Queensland Government has shown increasing understanding, especially since the beginning of this century. The Department of Health and Home Affairs, to which care of the aborigines is entrusted, has given much support to the mission work of the Lutheran Church. At first the subsidy granted was small, but during recent years the department has made liberal grants for special needs and purposes.

On May 17, 1942, the evacuation of the mission was carried out under military orders. While the majority of the people were transferred to Woorabinda Settlement, west of Rockhampton, some were sent to Palm Island. These aborigines suffered from cold and homesickness and some 48 died.

On April 12, 1949, the first group was returned to Cooktown and the mission was reestablished some 30 miles north of this township, on an aboriginal reserve of 257,200 acres.

Since then, much money and effort have been expended on the new settlement. Native houses and huts have been built, crops raised, fencing put up, cattle purchased, a saw mill established and a school and residences built.

The Cape Bedford native, back in his own country, now is happy and contented once again.

Population of the reserve at present is 294.

BEDFORDALE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A townsite and district adjacent to the Albany Highway, Bedfordale is situated about two miles southeast of Armadale and 20 miles southeast of Perth. With a population of about 265, the area is devoted mainly to fruit growing.

BEDFORD DOWNS STATION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

This area was named after Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford who was governor of Western Australia in 1903.

Bedford Downs Station is a cattle station held at present under lease by the Quilty Brothers. Located on the main route from Derby to Wyndham and Halls Creek, Western Australia, it is approximately 2,220,209 acres in size.

BEDFORD HARBOUR, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

East of Hopetown on the south coast of Western Australia, Bedford Harbour is the start of the Number One rabbit-proof fence. It was named for Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford.

BEDFORD PARK, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bedford Park is a suburb north of Perth, Western Australia, and is a residential district. There is no record of the origin of its name, but it probably was named for Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford. Population of the postal district is 1,900.

BEDFORD RANGE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Bedford Range was named in 1904 by F. H. Hann after Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford. It is situated southwest of the Rawlinson Range in Western Australia, about 90 miles from the Northern Territory border and about 60 miles north of the border between South Australia and the Northern Territory.

LAKE BEDFORD, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

East of Lake Carnegie in Western Australia, Lake Bedford is located approximately at latitude 26 degrees and longitude 123 degrees. It was named probably for Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford. Since Lake Bedford is on the edge of the desert country, this large flat would contain water only after one of the heavy rainstorms which visit this area at rare intervals.

MOUNT BEDFORD, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Named after Admiral Sir F. G. D. Bedford, Mount Bedford is situated on the division of the Omalinde and Luman districts, south of the Chamberlain River in the Kimberly Division of Western Australia.

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Canada

BEDFORD, MANITOBA

Bedford, located in the southeastern part of Manitoba Province, was named after the 11th Duke of Bedford. It is a station on the Canadian National Railroad and was built in 1899 on the edge of the Sandilands Forest Reserve.

A track for the meeting and passing of trains and a short loading track are located at Mile 99.8 on the railroad's Sprague Subdivision. Designated as Bedford, it is 105 miles southeast of Winnipeg.

There is no village, settlement, stores or post office. In fact, at the time of writing, only one man was known to be there overseeing the shipment of pulpwood from the siding.

The village of Sandilands, with a population of about 50, is located 3.8 miles east of Bedford.

BEDFORD LAKE, MANITOBA

Bedford Lake is located in Sections 29 and 32 of Township 13, Range 16, EPM, west of Crowduck Lake.

BEDFORD BAY, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Bedford Bay is located in Franklin District of the Northwest Territories, with a latitude of 57 degrees and longitude of 98 degrees 39 minutes. It may have been named for John Russell, the Ninth Duke of Bedford, since it was named by Parry in 1819.

BEDFORD CREEK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Bedford Creek, approximately four miles long, is located in the Mackenzie District of the Northwest Territories. The name was suggested by C. S. Macdonald, DLS, after Robert H. Bedford, an instrument man on his party in this area in 1922.

BEDFORD HARBOUR, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Bedford Harbour is located in Hudson Strait of the Franklin District, Northwest Territories. It was named by R. Bell after Admiral Sir Frederick George Denham Bedford, GCB, Governor of Western Australia in 1903.

BEDFORD LAKE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

With a latitude of 63 degrees and a longitude of 109 degrees 30 minutes, Bedford Lake is located in the Northwest Territories. It is approximately eight miles long and three miles wide. It was named for Robert H. Bedford, an instrument man in the C. S. Macdonald party in this area in 1922.

BEDFORD POINT, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Bedford Point is on the west shore of Marian Lake, in Great Slave Lake of the Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories. With a latitude of 62 degrees 58 minutes and longitude of 116 degrees 14 minutes, it was named after a member of a survey party.

BEDFORD, NOVA SCOTIA

First mention of the Bedford area is contained in the writings of Champlain, the great explorer who left very complete records of his voyages.

About 350 years ago, Champlain mentioned in his records what today is known as Halifax Harbour and Bedford Basin. He also wrote of the islands in the basin and of the river, now called the Sackville River, which flows into the head of the basin.

Bedford, Nova Scotia, is located in Halifax County, about 10 miles from the city of Halifax. Today, there are perhaps 3,500 residents in the village. It has its own fire brigade, four schools, four churches, stores, banks and markets.

Bedford Basin was a haven of refuge for ships from many parts of the world during war years. Bedford Bay is a beauti-

ful and capacious bay on the southern coast of Nova Scotia. Six miles long and four miles wide, the bay is connected with Halifax Harbour by a narrow strait.

The basin, a continuation of Halifax Harbour, first was called Chebouctou by the Micmac Indians. Later the British called it Torrington Bay.

It was here the village was settled on the northwest side of the basin in 1698 by French fishermen. In 1713, all of Acadia was ceded to the British through the Treaty of Utrecht, and for 20 long years, little was reported concerning the village of Bedford.

First called Fort Sackville, the village name was changed to Bedford in 1749 about the time Halifax was founded. The name was given in honor of the Duke of Bedford who was then secretary of state for Great Britain.

The fort had been built as protection for the villagers against Indian attacks. It also served as a lookout post for the capture of deserters from the navy and army.

This fort consisted of barracks, guardhouse, jail and the commanding officer's residence. This assembly was surrounded by a palisade. The commander's residence, known as the manor house, still is occupied and is one of the most beautiful residences in the town.

The Goreham Rangers, stationed at the fort, were skilled in woodcraft and soon were well-acquainted with the ways of the Indians.

When Commander Beresford, second commander of the fort, decided to retire to England, he advertised in an English newspaper that he would exchange estates. Thus Beresford went to England and George Lister came to Bedford to take over Beresford's estate which consisted of the manor house and miles of virgin forest land.

Lister was of the Anglican faith and donated land for a cemetery with the proviso that only Anglicans were to be buried there. Later he became a member of the Plymouth Brethren sect.

When he died, his wife wished to bury her husband in the

donated premises only to find the Anglican proviso prohibited such action.

She became indignant and buried her husband on their own property, near a brook. She, too, was buried there when she passed away.

Mrs. Lister's sister, a Miss Brockwell, later donated the beautiful Riverside Cemetery for those of all faiths. An impressive public service was held a few years ago at Riverside Cemetery when the remains of the Listers were exhumed and laid to rest beside the sister of Mrs. Lister. A tablet, suitably engraved, has been erected in their memory.

In 1749, a fleet of French ships was driven up Bedford Basin by a great storm. The fleet, commanded by D'Anville, was on its way to attempt capture of Louisburg from the British.

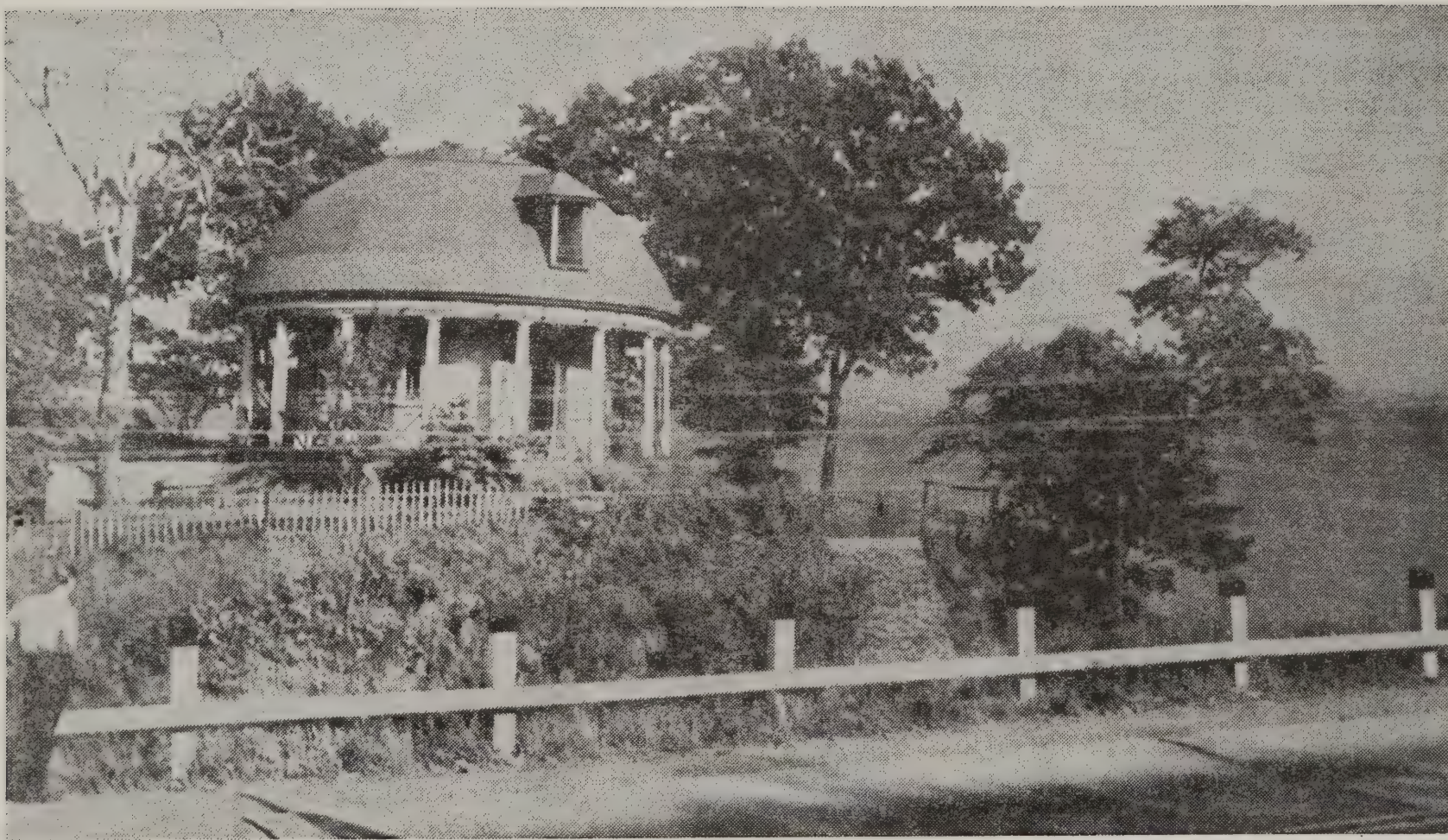
The ships' crews were in a bad condition because of sickness. Death was rampant. Rather than surrender and return to France, D'Anville burned the ships and committed suicide.

Here on the shores of the basin, a monument commemorating this ill-fated expedition has been erected by the Nova Scotia Historical Society.

Anthony Holland, in 1819, built the Acadian Paper Mill at Bedford. It was the first of its kind in Canada. It was here that Holland manufactured newsprint for his paper, *The Acadian Recorder*.

This paper had been established in 1813 with newsprint imported from the United States. Failure in deliveries caused Holland to experiment and produce his own newsprint. The pulp was made from rags, refuse and waste paper mixed with molasses, then dried in sheets and pressed. A man named Kossock also had a paper-making business at Bedford, but manufactured only a quality for wrapping paper.

Charles Fenerty, in 1844, began experimenting in making paper with ground wood from spruce trees. When he did perfect a white paper, he discovered an Englishman, that same year, had obtained a patent for the process. However, the



—Canadian National Film Board

A private residence on the Bedford Highway overlooking Bedford Basin. It once was a bandstand on the estate of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, Commander-in-Chief of North American forces in 1800.

historical society has erected a tablet on Fenerty's farm near Sackville in appreciation for his work.

Bedford, rich in history, also is the cradle of many industries.

In 1865, a mill was built for manufacture of boxes to ship the now-famous "Moir's Chocolates". Moir also operated a grist mill and spool factory in those early days. In the spool factory, time was determined by a chalk line on the floor. When the shadow of the door reached the line, workers knew it was dinnertime.

Bedford also boasted a rope factory and grain elevator. Grain was shipped to Montreal and other cities by water. And the Moir establishment continued to grow until at a much later date the chocolate coating for the candy also was made here.

One Sunday morning, long before the advent of the telephone, the mayor of Halifax called at the Halifax home of the president of Moir's Limited.

"Mr. Moir," he said, "I have come in person to express my sympathy."

"Sympathy?" Mr. Moir said, "what for?"

"Oh," said the mayor, "your mills at Bedford were destroyed by fire last night!"

Mr. Moir had not heard of the catastrophe since the news had been signaled by heliograph across the basin from Bedford to Halifax.

At Bedford also in those early days were tanneries, woolen mills and shipyards, built by the sturdy settlers from the Old World.

About 1872 the Provincial Fish Hatchery was established and the streams of the province were supplied from here for many years. The fish hatchery, now one of many, still functions beside the Sackville River.

Bedford had its own newspaper, "The Bedford Mirror," in the early days. Another early feature was the provincial rifle range which was built here very early. One of the sights of the village was to see the redcoats arriving by train and

being driven in large horse-drawn vehicles along the dusty road to the range for rifle practice.

One highlight in the history of the rifle range was the presentation of prizes at one of its meetings by IIRH the Duke of York, later King George V.

Many royal memories linger around the shores of the basin where Queen Victoria's father, the Duke of Kent, held court during the years he commanded the garrison at Halifax. Of the beautiful grounds and residence, only the rotunda remains perched high on a bluff overlooking the basin.

Few of the tourists speeding by on the nearby highway know of the stately dances and gay concerts once held here at "Prince's Lodge".

BEDFORD MILLS, ONTARIO

Named after Bedfordshire, England, Bedford Mills settlement consists of a grocery store, church school, two or three residences and an old mill which has ceased to operate. At one time, the mill, operated by water power, supplied electricity for the surrounding district.

Located at the outlet of Devil Lake, Bedford Township, Frontenac County, Bedford Mills was first known as Buttermilk Falls as far back as 1829.

One of the first settlers, Benjamin Tett, arrived in Canada about 1820 and settled in Perth. In 1827, he located in Newboro during construction of the Rideau Canal. In August, 1831, he leased Buttermilk Falls from the government and became a mill owner.

The lease, taken out during the reign of William IV, was payable annually with 10½ bushels of good, sweet, clean salable wheat.

At expiration of the lease Tett purchased the lot from the government, took up land in Newboro (then called Isthmus) and started a mercantile business. He sublet his lease on Buttermilk Falls to the Chaffy Brothers. These men—John, George and William—built mills, a store and dwellings, cut sawlogs, square and flatted timber and oak staves.

After several years, the brothers got into financial troubles and closed down the works. They made this fact known to the public by tying a red string from the office door latch to a stake driven into the ground 10 feet away. John Chaffy then took over the business in his own name.

Chaffy always had confidence in his men and they responded by making his interest their own. Money from the business was kept in a 10-quart pan in a cupboard.

Chaffy brothers also built the grist mill at Buttermilk Falls and the old familiar boarding house, store and some residences.

Benjamin Tett took over the business at Buttermilk Falls in 1834. When John Chaffy died he also took over the Mississauga Mills. It was about this time Tett also got the post office installed and changed the town's name to Bedford Mills.

An invalid, Tett turned the business over to his sons in 1876. In the springtime, Tett Brothers had as many as 150 men waiting for the ice to disperse in order to get the logs down and the mill operating its 24-hour day of two shifts. Wages paid were from \$12 to \$20 a month with board, depending upon the job held.

BEDFORD PARK, ONTARIO

A sub-post office of Toronto, Bedford Park (and the Eglinton district of present-day North Toronto) dates back to the period immediately following the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on Christmas Eve, 1814. That treaty brought an official end to the hostilities now known as the War of 1812-15.

During the latter part of that conflict, the British government sent out several battalions to aid the few British troops who then were in Canada. These incoming British regiments were to some extent sponsored by certain members of the British nobility. Foremost in the ranks of these gentlemen were the Duke of Bedford and the Earl of Eglinton.

During the late spring of the year 1815, the government of Upper Canada gave land grants to all the British soldiers who desired to remain in Canada. These land grants extended

from what is now North Toronto eastward to the Markham district.

It was in honor of their regimental patron that these British veterans gave the name Bedford and Eglinton to the areas in which their land holdings were located.

Bedford Park was established as a post office February 1, 1891, and became a sub-office of the Toronto post office May 1, 1912. It was closed January 23, 1918, and reopened April 18, 1921.

BEDFORD PARISH, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Bedford Parish is a post office and railway station in Queens County, Prince Edward Island. Formerly known as Millcove, it now is named after the Fourth Duke of Bedford, who, in 1762, as British minister of plenipotentiary, signed at Fontainebleau the preliminaries of peace with France and Spain.

A rural community, it is probably one of the earliest settlements on the island.

Bedford Road is approximately $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles long. At the southern end are the railroad station, post office, garage and general store. Going north, the road passes through a prosperous farming settlement whose residents are noted for their generosity and peacefulness.

At the northern end of the road is a bridge called Corran Bann, a Scott name for white sickle or foam, peculiar to shore edges of the North River which the bridge spans. The river is famous for its salt water trout. North River flows into Bedford Bay which is noted for its scenery.

Bedford Parish settlers are mostly of Scottish, Irish and English descent.

BEDFORD, QUEBEC

This prosperous town, county seat of Missisquoi County, is located at the southwest gate of Quebec's eastern townships, near the rolling slopes of the Green Mountains. It is at the

head of the fertile Richelieu Valley and is the center of a rich farming district. The Pike River flows east to west through the town.

The first actual settler on the site of what today is known as Bedford was Solomon Dunham. He took up residence on the bank of the Pike River, just below the site of the Bedford Company factory, about 50 miles southeast of Montreal.

Just where this early settler came from is open to speculation, but his name is found among the settlers of Caldwell's Manor in 1798 and it is probable he came to Bedford shortly afterwards.

Before the war of 1812, little had been accomplished toward effecting a general settlement in this part of the township. However, there were some openings made in the wilderness and there was a grist mill on the Pike River. This, however, was carried away in a flood and was not rebuilt until 1815.

At this early day the forests of Stanbridge were valuable, or more properly, would have been valuable had there been an available market. In 1820, a large tract was burned in a fire which had been started accidentally.

At that time, the village of Bedford was not completely built. The buildings were scattered mainly along the left bank of the stream, which itself is quite rapid at this point.

With Bedford as the "chef-lieu" of Missisquoi County, the town boasted the court and council rooms, registry office, post office, several stores, academy, public houses, mills, tanneries, and about 300 homes.

The township of Stanbridge, where Bedford is located, was surveyed in 1801. The work was carried on under the supervision of the Duke of Bedford.

Tradition says that the surveying party approached the locality from St. Johns. When they arrived at Missisquoi Bay, they were advised to take the old Indian trail which led from the bay to the Yamaska River. This was the route followed by the Indians in their travels to and from New England.

After following the trail for eight miles, the party arrived at a point where it crossed the river.

The large elm trees, abounding on every side, together with

the pleasing aspect of the county and its close resemblance to their home in the mother country, prompted them to name it Bedford. The place also was known as Stanbridge Falls for a time, but the name was changed to Bedford more than a century ago.

In 1812, a freshet carried away the mill and the bridge across the river. The mill business later was purchased by Hon. Robert Jones who rebuilt the mill and the bridge and in 1826 opened the first store in town.

It was at this time also that Martin Rice arrived from Rhode Island and opened a "trip hammer shop." In this establishment was built much of the old style up-and-down saw mill equipment which was used to reduce the sturdy growth of the forest. Most of the lumber was shipped to New York in flat boats on the Pike River.

The dense growth of lumber, much of it hemlock, supplied quantities of bark. This attracted tanners from New England. The town came to depend on this industry somewhat and suffered a great setback in 1832 when a large tannery was leveled by fire.

Very little money was in circulation at the time. In fact, potash and pearl ash were common mediums of exchange. The loss of this market for tan bark was a severe blow to the growing community.

Bedford has always been identified with the iron working industry. A needle factory grew into an undertaking with employment for hundreds of persons. A foundry eventually grew into the Bedford Stoves Company.

Present-day Bedford is known far and wide. Its main industry is a needle factory. But it also is the center of a prosperous agriculture district. Incorporated in 1890, it has a population of about 2,500 persons. Two-thirds of the inhabitants are of French origin. The majority speak both French and English.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Bank of Montreal have established branches here. The Canadian Pacific Railway offers adequate transportation facilities. Splendid

highways combine to make Bedford easily accessible from distant points.

The town is only eight miles from Missisquoi Bay. There are several industries employing hundreds and there are smaller industries which offer work to others.

The annual fair attracts considerable crowds each year and the exhibits create a widespread interest.

A number of modern stores cater to the requirements of the population. There is a roomy and well-kept hotel. Besides the high school, Bedford has a college for boys and a convent for girls.

Sports are well-organized with such activities as horse races, baseball, tennis, croquet, hockey, badminton, bowling and skiing.

Because of nearby bays, rivers and lakes, water sports also are available. Good fishing is to be had along the Pike River, at Missisquoi Bay and in brooks. Cottages also can be rented along the sandy beaches of Missisquoi Bay and Lake Champlain.

Almost all of the town's 7½ miles of streets are paved. An abundance of trees along the streets add a note of charm and comfort to this typical Canadian town.

There is a spirit of optimism prevalent among the citizens of Bedford. They are looking forward to prosperity and continued success for their town.

BEDFORD ISLAND, SASKATCHEWAN

Bedford Island is situated in Reindeer Lake, opposite Swan River outlet. It is named in commemoration of Bedford House which was established by the Hudson's Bay Company on the west side of Reindeer Lake in 1796.

BEDFORDVILLE, SASKATCHEWAN

This formerly was a rural post office, located in a farm house. Mail was brought twice each week from Ituna which is on the Canadian National Railway line.

Bedfordville post office was about 15 miles from Ituna. Its name derived from the original homesteader upon whose ground it first was located in 1906 or thereabouts. He was Fred Bedford.

Mr. Bedford hailed from Nottingham, England, where he was a gamekeeper on the estate of the noted Miller Mundy, a wealthy industrialist.

After Bedford's death in 1918, Bedfordville post office was carried on by the Yates family at their farm until it was closed and the service was discontinued a few years ago. The farmers of the area now drive to Ituna for their mail.

THE CLUB ON THE HILL

FORT BEDFORD
POST NO. 7527

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

ROUTE 220 NORTH

BEDFORD, PA.

NEHI BOTTLING CO.

ROYAL CROWN COLA

NEHI BEVERAGES

PAR-T-PAK QUARTS

PHONE 697

BEDFORD, PA.

England



—Camera Press, London
Aerial view of Bedford, county town of Bedfordshire, England.

BEDFORD, BEDFORDSHIRE

Education has been called the principal industry of Bedford.

And it is true that much of the development of the town as a residential area and much of its fame throughout the world is due to the well-known Bedford schools under the Harpur Trust.

These schools, at any rate the Bedford School, can be traced back to the 12th Century when the school was maintained by secular canons of the Collegiate Church of St. Paul, who were later removed to Newnham Priory in the parish of Goldington. Since then the schools have maintained, in the language of the collegiate churches, "a supply of fit persons to serve God in church and state."

Bedford is known the world over mainly because of the immortal tinker, John Bunyan, who penned the classic "Pilgrim's Progress." But others also have played a part in its long history.

Among these, of course, was William Harpur, merchant tailor and lord mayor of London, who endowed a free grammar school in 1566 with 28 pounds a year from property in Bedford and 12 pounds a year from land in Holburn.

Probably of all its famous residents, Harpur has accomplished most for Bedford.

The ever-increasing value of his endowment enabled later trustees to develop the schools in the 19th Century to such an extent that parents came to live in Bedford solely to have their children educated.

This one factor shaped Bedford more than any other and it is obvious to the visitor that present-day Bedford was planned on generous lines for those who could pay the price. It is indeed a pleasant town, with fine buildings, parks and riverside walks, situated astride the River Ouse in lowland countryside, where the quiet sedgy meadows and placid waters encourage contemplation.

Bedford is an educational center of the front rank, and a holiday and tourist center attracting thousands of visitors every

year. But its mainstay is now its industry.

The town's origin is lost in antiquity. It has had many great things occur in its long tenure of life.

It seems incredible to anyone strolling along the willow-hung banks of the Ouse River that these tranquil waters once brought the dreaded Danish longships right up to where the town of Bedford now stands. But the remains of one of these longships discovered here proves that the Vikings actually did penetrate this far inland.

Bedford's recorded history, however, dates from three centuries before the Danish invasions.

According to the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, the West Saxons, led by Cuthwulf, defeated the Britons at Bedford, then called Bedcanford. Roman, Celtic and Saxon coins have been found in the locality. The Saxons were essentially agriculturists and little remains of their settlement in Bedford.

By the end of the Ninth Century, Bedford became a frontier town between the lands held by Alfred and the Danclagh under Danish control, the Ouse forming the boundary.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records how the burgesses of Bedford submitted to Edward the Elder, Alfred's son, who "ordered the town to be repaired on the south side of the water," and built new defenses around the settlement. About seven years later, in 921, this new garrison withstood the Danes successfully, but again in 1010 Bedford was ravaged by them.

But Bedford must have been a considerable settlement at that time and had its own local government. King Offa of Mercia is thought to have founded a monastery here. There are remains of Saxon work in St. Peter's Church. In the Domesday (Survey) Book, the town was given a separate entry as a county town.

A Norman castle stood here on a mound commanding the river and a series of monasteries was built in the neighborhood—at Elstow, Newnham, Cauldwell, Harrold, Woburn and Chicksands—of which very few buildings remain.

In the early 13th Century the district was ravaged by

Fulk (Falco) de Breaute who made Bedford his headquarters until 1224, when Henry III with Stephen Langton, the great Archbishop of Canterbury, and Hubert de Burgh, chief justiciar, with a numerous army, besieged the castle for nearly two months. Fulk was absent at the time the castle was captured after the walls were undermined and fired.

More than 80 of the garrison were hung on the spot; Fulk was banished and some of the leading rebels were sent on a crusade to the Holy Land in lieu of pardon.

The castle was dismantled and its mound became famous as the site of an exceptionally good bowling green which was used by bowls players for over four centuries.

Little has been recorded of medieval Bedford, but during this time its local government was steadily strengthening and developing.

Bedford was represented in Parliament as early as 1295. Two members were returned to the House regularly from that date until 1885 and by one until 1918. Since then there has been one MP for the Bedford division.

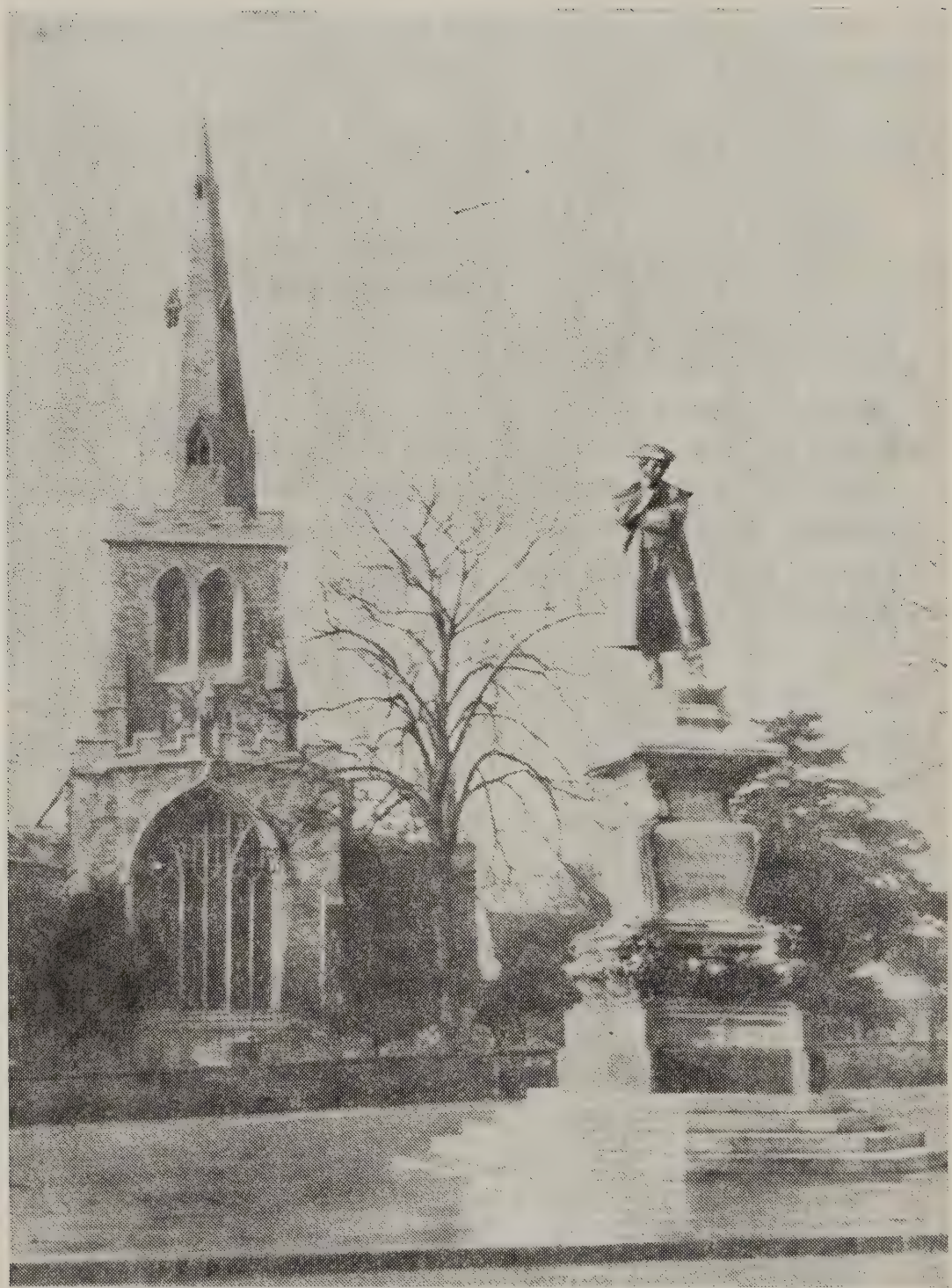
Bedford is a borough by prescription. The earliest charter extant is that of Henry II, 1166-67, which confirms liberties and customs which the burgesses "had in the time of Henry, his grandfather."

Subsequent charters by no less than 11 other sovereigns confirmed and modified that of 1166-67, the latest being that of Charles II.

Henry VIII granted a November fair to St. Leonard's Hospital and this right was held as lately as the 19th Century by the farm which then occupied the site. Since the reign of Mary Tudor, the town has held the right of two fairs annually and a weekly market, the latter being held on Saturdays.

During Henry's reign, the dissolution of the monasteries and monastic schools necessitated the closing of the school which had apparently for centuries (probably since about 1150) been conducted by the monks of Newnham.

In 1562, Bedford Corporation showed initiative in reinstating the school. Four years later it was endowed by Sir



St. Paul's Church and John Howard statue.

William Harpur and his wife, Dame Alice, who still are revered as "the founders of the endowed school of Bedford."

During the next century a considerable trade in coal developed on the River Ouse from Lynn and Yarmouth to Bedford, but peaceful development of trade and industry was interrupted by the Civil War.

The county of Bedford as a whole declared for Parliament, though many were perhaps secretly loyal to Charles. In fact, Sir Lewis Dyve of Bromham became prominent among the king's men even as Sir Samuel Luke of Cople did among the parliamentarians.

After his defeat at Naseby, Charles I himself slept at Bedford on the 25th of August, 1645, before moving on to Woburn Abbey. Cromwell was often at Bedford. In 1647, while he and his staff spent a week here and the captive king was at Woburn Abbey, negotiations for peace passed between the army and the king. But when these proved unacceptable to Charles, the army left Bedford on July 29 to march to London.

After so much puritanical zeal, supported by the exhortations of John Bunyan, the restoration of 1660 ushered in the period of conflict of religious loyalties in Bedford. Bunyan was not the only local dissenter to be thrown into prison, but was joined there by another Bedford preacher, John Donne (not to be confused with the celebrated preacher and poet) and about 60 of his followers, captured at one of the services in the woods.

In the following century, a certain John Howard, born in Hackney in 1726, and later living in Cardington, also became connected with Bedford jail, but not as a prisoner.

John Howard built Howard House in Mill Street, near St. Cuthbert's Church, and founded a congregational chapel here in 1775. In the following year he was appointed high sheriff of the county. Howard made it his life's work to study prison reform. He traveled all over the British Isles and in Europe to collect information on prison conditions and to seek to improve them. In 1777, he published his valuable researches. In 1894, a statue in bronze and stone was erected in his

memory in Bedford Market Place, in front of St. Paul's Church. The sculptor was Sir Alfred Gilbert, whose "Eros" in Piccadilly is world famous.

The history of 19th Century Bedford is largely one of peaceful development and progress promoted by the corporation and burgesses.

The act for the relief of the poor, passed in Parliament in 1794, authorized the erection of the Poor Law Institution in Kimbolton Road under the "governors of the House of Industry." Two enclosure acts were passed about the same time, followed in 1803 and 1810 by the improvement acts, constituting the local board of commissioners.

In the middle of the century, the corporation became the local board of health, and later, in 1875, urban sanitary authority under the public health act. Following the education act of 1870, a school board was appointed and this was superseded in 1902 when the corporation became the local education authority.

From 1840 to 1860, the heart of the town altered very slowly although the residential quarters really became expanded.

Then in the next three decades, with the growing fame of the schools and the wise and powerful and far-seeing rule of Phillpotts and Poole, the "sleeping beauty" that was Bedford awakened to a golden age of enterprise and prosperity.

Good building went hand in hand with good manners; new vistas of educational opportunity opened up before the fascinated eyes of the civic fathers and Bedford began to shed its parochialism and to feel that it was a living part of the empire for whose service it was equipping its sons and daughters.

However, with all this activity, this sense of purpose and destiny, Bedford preserved much of its old-world serenity and its leisurely habit.

In those grand days, life was lived in slow motion when compared with our modern times.

The vehicles moved at a snail's pace except for an occasional dog cart and smart trotting pony. There was

very little noise except for the creak of a heavily-loaded wagon. A pedestrian could cross the street anywhere without the risk of being run down.

This Bedford of a century ago was a quiet little country town, not much changed from the time when young Victoria came to the throne.

Beneath its serene surface, however, Bedford was full of life and action.

Wages were low and the working hours were long, but Bedford lived in a land of plenty and life was full of mildly exciting pleasures and purposes.

People never hurried nor worried.

The good old queen sat on the throne and all was well with the world. Britain ruled the waves and the Indians. The name of her fleet put the fear of God in the French and Germans and was a stern caution to the Russians to keep their distance.

Mayor Palgrave in 1851 complained that the cost of gas for lamps was extravagant although the townspeople complained the few lamps in the streets gave such a poor light that it was hardly safe to go out at night.

What else did those people of Bedford talk about a century ago?

Just as today, the Russian bear was glowering in the East. Queen Victoria had declared it was necessary to look to the national defenses. Lord Derby said in the House of Lords that "in order to be peaceful, England must be powerful."

A total eclipse of the sun was predicted for 1851, but on that July day the rains came and the clouds hid the heavenly show. A very small income tax was in effect, but it was denounced as a flagrant and intolerable injustice. Sanitation was conspicuous by its absence. Mayor Palgrave said "the town now is perfectly wholesome. The smells and pestilential effuvia in the public streets, of which there formerly was so much complaint, are entirely removed and no town can be more healthy than Bedford."



Market Place and High Street showing statue of John Howard.

Apparently the mayor was only talking for talking's sake since a series of editorials in *The Bedford Times* referred to air still poisoned by cess-pools and manure pits, a swarm of reeking slaughter houses in the town and the practice of burials in the churchyards against medical advice.

These were the days when the population was just over 11,000 and the death rate was nearly 30 per thousand. Men were considered old when they reached 50 years of age.

But by degrees the old pig-headed burgesses were robbed of their power to obstruct sanitary reform, just as they lost their power to hamper and restrict the growth of education. Public opinion and governmental authority were too much for them. They vanished from the arena of public affairs and the atmosphere of the town was both spiritually and physically the cleaner and brighter for their passing.

These were busy times!

The streets were lighted with gas by a company. Water and electricity services were undertaken by the corporation in 1866 and 1890, respectively. Horse race meetings, which began in 1730, were discontinued finally in 1874. A theater and public subscription library were opened. The newspaper, *The Bedfordshire Times*, first appeared in 1845. The first railway was opened in 1846. One of the last horse-drawn coaches running from London was the *Bedford Times*.

Two weekly markets were held for pigs, corn and provisions; the trade in the borough developed rapidly, particularly in corn and coal, and factories for lace and plaited straw and for agricultural implements increased their business.

The local government act of 1858 (forerunner of the public health act of 1875) was adopted partially in 1862 and completely adopted in 1864 when the corporation assumed the powers of a board of health.

From then until the public health act of 1875, under which the corporation was constituted as urban sanitary authority, the town gradually grew sweeter and cleaner. This advance in hygiene, with the educational renaissance, marked the real beginning of Bedford's prestige and popularity. With

pure water supplies and a proper drainage system, Bedford had a clear conscience when putting her attractions before the world.

The excellence of Bedford schools did much to make it a popular place of residence.

The fights of the first half of the century were forgotten and the term "squatter" had lost its opprobrium. Newcomers were kindly welcomed and even made to feel at home in a town which was determined to make the best of them.

The men of vision carried the rest of the town council with them in their noble aspirations. There were certainly giants on the Harpur Trust, where vulgar prejudice and acrimony had been driven out by the bland, yet forceful, views of eminent scholars and administrators.

There were great men, too, at the head of the schools, to carry these wise and far-seeing policies to fruition. In those days, the leaders did not believe in killing the goose that laid the golden eggs.

One of the inducements they offered to would-be residents was the lowest possible rates commensurate with the blessings of a healthy and well-ordered town. No extravagance was ever entertained. They had a holy fear of dipping into the public purse. The people, appreciating this, were often prepared to give their own money towards public improvements.

Nineteenth Century Bedford had its men of note, among them William Hale White. Under the name of Mark Rutherford, White made his name in journalism and as a novelist. His birthplace in High Street is marked by a tablet.

During the last 100 years, the town has grown out of all recognition. On April 1, 1934, the boundaries were extended to increase the area of the borough from 2,220 acres to 4,972 acres. The population has grown to 55,000 while Bedford County has a population in excess of 300,000.

Four important roads, Ampthill, Elstow, London and Cardington, together with the secondary road to Kempston, converge to the south of the river near St. John's railroad station and the garage of the Eastern National Omnibus

Company. These roads are backed by residential roads, many of them only recently developed.

Along the railway and between Kempston Road and the river are several important, but unobtrusive factories and works. Many of their employees are therefore able to live within walking or cycling distance of their jobs in agreeable, healthy surroundings.

The important work of dredging and maintaining the Ouse River within the borough and for a short distance upstream and downstream, has been delegated by the Great Ouse Catchment Board to the corporation which maintains the riverside promenades and gardens.

A pleasant acquaintance with the country around Bedford can be made by wandering beside the Ouse, the town's chief attraction.

Bedford has grown up on both sides of the river, the larger part to the north.

As with many riverside towns, however, Bedford's busiest streets and important civic buildings are near the main bridge.

From the shops of St. Mary's Street, to the south of the river, flanked by St. Mary's Garden and boat houses, the graceful five-arched bridge leads across into High Street. Here and in Silver Street are the main shops of this busy county town, catering for a large area of rural villages as well as for the local people.

Continuing north past Bunyan's statue lies De Parys Avenue, with its wide pavements and double avenue of trees, flanked by roomy, red-bricked gabled houses, truly "desirable residences," in neat flower gardens; with Bedford School and its beautifully kept extensive playing fields immediately behind the houses on the right-hand side. At the end of the avenue is Bedford Park.

At the south end of High Street, near the town bridge, stands the contemplative bronze figure of John Howard. Behind it tapers the tall spire of St. Paul's Church. Around the other three sides of the churchyard is St. Paul's Square



St. Peter's Church and statue of John Bunyan.

forming a civic center for the town. Here are the town hall, the shire hall and the corn exchange.

The shire hall was built originally in 1752, rebuilt in the period between 1879-82 and enlarged in 1910. The assizes, quarter and petty sessions, county council meetings, etc., are held here. The shire hall also houses an important collection of county archives.

The town hall, with the municipal offices, was formerly occupied by Bedford Grammar School. Here the old school was housed in the heart of the town until it outgrew its accommodation and was transferred to the present larger and more openly situated premises in 1891. Since that date, the historic buildings have been used as municipal offices, council chamber and town hall. The ancient charters of the borough are kept there.

The corn exchange, on the north side of St. Paul's Square, is a white brick building in Italian style, opened by the Ninth Duke of Bedford in 1874. It contains a hall 100 feet by 85 feet, seating 1,000 people and is used for balls, concerts and public meetings, as well as for the corn market.

Standing near the bridge is the Swan Hotel which has many Bunyan connections. It was rebuilt by Francis, Duke of Bedford, in 1794, and he incorporated in it much of the material, especially the fine staircase, which he had brought from Houghton House, the "House Beautiful" of "Pilgrim's Progress." The inn also occupied an important place in the latter day history of Bedford.

It was the convivial headquarters for many important events and was for many years the principal coaching inn of the town. The Bedford Times coach, last one to run from Bedford, made its final journey to London in 1846 from here.

Bedford has architectural treasures of its own in its ancient parish churches, even including a genuine Saxon tower, and just across the borough boundary is the historic Elstow church with remarkable Norman work and the detached belfry where Bunyan helped to peal the bells.

From about 1870 to 1914, Bedford enjoyed its golden era. Throughout the 80s, all classes seemed inspired with a

common zeal and energy to make Bedford the best of all towns. Never were there such building craftsmen—the master builders, the joiners and carpenters, the bricklayers—all determined to put the best possible work into the high-class dwellings they were erecting.

It was not all clever work. Things might have been done better in places, but considering that there were no town planning experts in those days and that the builders could not have seen the internal combustion engine and its results in traffic, they produced a residential fringe to the old town that was marvellous in the eyes of the people and whose character commands respect to this day. Because the houses are large and cannot possibly be used as homes by single families, they must be made into apartments.

Bedford is compact, but by no means overcrowded. The roads generally are wide with broad pavements, especially those that are purely residential. Much of the town has been built in the past 75 years to house parents of pupils attending the famous schools.

Districts built up to house workers in Bedford industries have been carefully and artistically planned. In all parts of the town are parks and recreation grounds, while the open country is easily and quickly reached by a short walk or bus ride. The higher ground, on all sides but the east, offers pleasant rural views.

Bedford has been the leading town of the county since time of the Domesday Survey. It has been a borough by prescription apparently since the time of Henry I, though its earliest charter is dated 1166-67.

The arms of Bedford comprise “Per pale argent and gules a fesse azure.” These arms were already ancient in 1634 when it was recorded they had belonged to the town and borough of Bedford from “tyme out of mynd.”

The borough is divided into seven wards, which are represented on the council by 21 councillors. These councillors, together with the mayor and aldermen, form the governing body of the borough.

Bedford's future expansion and progress depends, to a

very large extent, on its industrial possibilities. These are of a wide and varied character and have been fully examined by industrial undertakings of both a private and national nature.

Unlike many towns of similar size, Bedford has never depended for its importance on its industries, although they do mean so much to the town today.

Although the development of its industries over the past 50 years has been responsible for the growth of its population to the present figure, the Bedford which existed as an important center many centuries before England became an industrial country has merely absorbed the industries as they have been built up within her borders.

The town's character has been shaped in the past by its scholastic establishments. Even today, when Bedford's factories distribute their products to all parts of the world, we find the name Bedford known best for its schools.

No longer, however, does the town thrive on the maintenance and supply of its academic institutions. Its present prosperity is kept at a high level entirely by its industry.

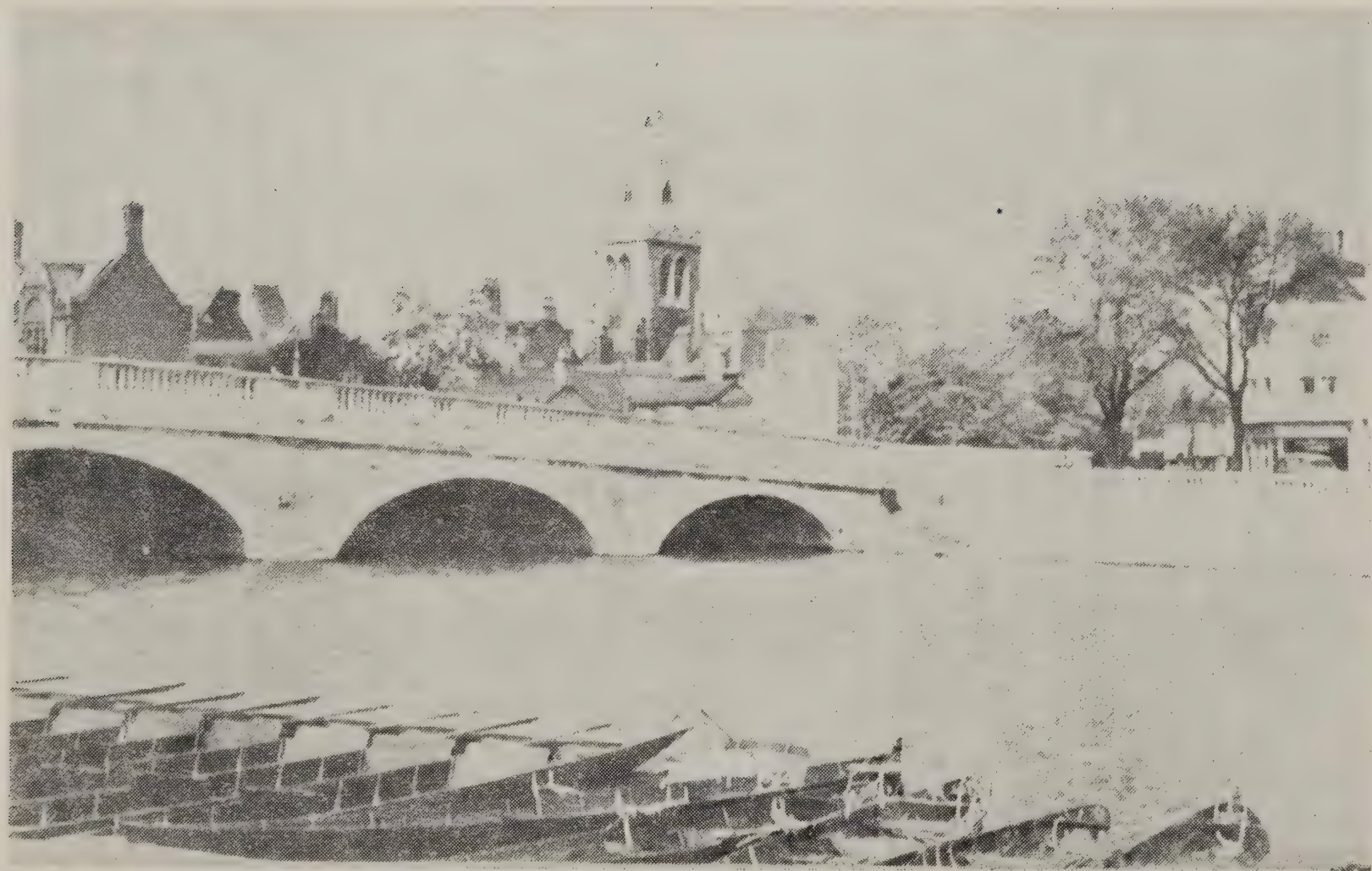
In a brief review such as this, it is impossible to describe the many products which flow from Bedford's factories. They are almost countless. Thus the town is unable to claim any one particular industry as its own. It is safe to assert, however, that the main industry is light engineering and it is certainly engineering of one kind or another which provides employment for the bulk of the town's factory workers.

Bedford has always prospered.

It is prospering now mainly because its industries are sound and producing necessary goods. There seems little doubt, that whether expansion comes or not, the town will continue to prosper and will continue to find employment for workers in many different trades.

Even its schools have continued down the pathway of prosperity since the 12th Century.

There seemed to be a danger that the old Bedford School would come to an end when the monasteries were dissolved under Henry VIII, but the canons of Newnham wisely trans-



Bedford Bridge and St. Paul's Church.

ferred the school to the "mayors, bailiffs, burgesses and commonalty" of Bedford in 1540.

In 1552, the corporation was granted letters patent to maintain the school, then in Mill Street, but it was not until 1566, when the school was endowed by Sir William Harpur, that its security was guaranteed.

Sir William, a merchant tailor of Bedford who became lord mayor of London in 1561, owned considerable property in Bedford. In 1564 he bought 13 acres of land in Holborn, London, for 180 pounds. Two years later a deed between Harpur and his wife on the one part and the Corporation of Bedford on the other attests the foundation of a free grammar school in Bedford in the newly-built schoolhouse, endowed with property in Bedford to the value of 28 pounds a year and the above mentioned land in Holborn, which brought in an annual income of 12 pounds a year.

The original letters patent of Edward VI gave the school power to receive land to the value of 40 pounds a year to sustain "a master and usher and for the maintenance of the school forever."

But it became apparent that an exclusively classical curriculum, based on Latin and Greek grammar, did not meet the requirements of everyone. So in 1764, an act of Parliament authorized the appointment of a "writing master."

Under him and his successors there soon developed the English School, later known for a short period as the Commercial School and since 1873 as Bedford Modern School.

In the early 19th Century, its growth was so rapid that the handsome building in Harpur Street was opened to accommodate it.

The two girls' schools, Bedford High School and Bedford Girls' Modern School (now called the Dame Alice Harpur School) were founded in 1882 and gave the advantages to the girls which had up to then been confined to the boys.

Charitable endowments from the Harpur funds were a considerable drain on the income and led to certain abuses which were abolished in 1873. This and other changes then

made possible the great developments in the schools under the Harpur trust which did so much to attract residents to Bedford.

For generations, the "Bedford-born" and their champions in the board room had (quite naturally perhaps) clung desperately to their apprenticeship allowances, their marriage portions, their hall money, their other charities, fighting tooth and nail any plans for improving the Bedford School.

The situation was bettered by the changes in 1853 and 1873.

From 1875 to 1903, a Colossus bestrode Bedford and moulded it to his will. It was the "Old Chief" himself, James Surtees Phillpotts, maker of buildings and men and chief architect of the destinies of Bedford School.

Less fiery than Phillpotts, but a great man, too, was Dr. Robert Burton Poole, who proceeded at calm, dignified pace, dedicated to his unswerving purpose of producing in the Modern School many Christian gentlemen among its scholars, soldiers and athletes.

In August, 1914, Bedford suffered from the first of its several invasions when pipers played into town the kilted regiments of the Highland Division.

There were to come afterwards men of other lands—Welshmen, Canadians, and in the 1939-45 war, thousands of Americans. Inevitably they left their mark upon the place.

Some, charmed by it, came back after the war to live in it; others took their brides from it.

Another influence was the influx from London and other vulnerable spots of all the evacuees of various grades of society and education. Many of these people have settled in Bedford and they will bring a different outlook to bear on local conditions and problems.

The Bedford which the old people knew and loved will disappear in time and wider streets and finer public buildings will take the place of the ancient landmarks. But it is hoped the essential quality of the town will remain.

BEDFORDS, ESSEX

A seat in Havering at the Bower, Essex, Bedfords is the name of an old house located in a public park in the borough of Romford. It is owned by the council. The house and the grounds on which it stands were originally part of the manor of Bedfords. References to the manor go back to the year 1460 in local history.

Little is known of the history of the manor of Bedfords before it became the property of Sir Thomas Cooke about the year 1460. It continued in his family for about 200 years, being held simply as a farm since the Cookes had their seat at Gidea Hall, the adjoining manor.

The terms of possession of Bedfords by Sir Thomas are interesting. He held it of the Queen, as her "Manor of Havering atte Bower," by the service of one red rose to be rendered yearly on the feast of St. John the Baptist.

During the Civil War, Bedfords was in the possession of Lady Ann Sydenham, a member of the Cooke family. It was sequestered by order of Parliament since her husband was fighting on the royalist side.

Lady Sydenham's son, Charles, sold the estate of Bedfords and Gidea Hall to Richard Emes, and he in turn sold them separately, thus ending an association of nearly two centuries.

After this the land passed through the hands of a number of owners, none of whom lived there.

The modern history of Bedfords begins with John Heaton, who bought the estate in 1771 and built the present house on the site of the old one which he demolished. When the commons were enclosed he obtained a good deal of Romford Common, both by assignment and purchase.

He was the most influential man in Havering in his day and did much for the church and its incumbents. After his death in 1818, the property was let by members of his family to various tenants and about 1870 the property was bought by H. R. Stone. Other tenants included James Theobald, M. P. for the Romford Division of Essex, and Sir Montague Cornish Turner.

BEDFORD PRECINCT, EXETER

This precinct, now known as Bedford Circus or Bedford Place, formerly was an extra-parochial liberty within the city of Exeter.

It is reputed to be the site of a house of Black Friars, a cell of Tavistock Abbey, but there is no definite evidence of this, although it would account for the area being extra-parochial, exempt from diocesan visitation.

After the dissolution of religious houses in the 16th Century the site was granted to Lord John Russell, Earl of Bedford, from whom the name probably is derived.

Bedford Circus was destroyed during the bombing of Exeter in World War II, and now is being rebuilt as shop property.

This district never was a precinct. That is, it never was an area within the city with its own system of law and order. It was an area northeast of the cathedral and within the city wall to which the name Bedford, in one form or another, was applied.

For several centuries, it appears a Dominican Friary (the Black Friars) covered the area. But in 1538, at the dissolution of the monasteries, the place was taken over by Lord Russell, Earl of Bedford, who built a house known as Bedford House.

Here Henrietta, Queen of Charles I, took refuge from the parliamentary army and on June 16, 1644, her daughter, Henrietta (Minette) was born.

In 1773 the house was demolished, and a double crescent of houses was built, described by Thomas Sharp, the architect, as "one of the best examples of unified architecture in England; something near to perfection of its kind."

Bedford Circus, as it was called, stood until the German blitz in the early morning of May 4, 1942.

That day, the German radio announced, "We have chosen

as targets the most beautiful places in England. Exeter was a jewel. We have destroyed it."

They had not destroyed Exeter, but Bedford Circus was totally gone.

In October, 1949, Princess Elizabeth (the present Queen) came to Exeter to lay a foundation stone to mark the beginning of rebuilding Exeter. The site chosen was where Bedford Circus had been. She renamed it Princess Hay. (Hay is used as a district name in Exeter.)

BEDFORD PLACE, HAMPSHIRE

Bedford Place was established in the period 1819-29 and was named after John Russell, Sixth Duke of Bedford, 1766-1839.

BEDFORD, LANCASHIRE

Bedford is one of three small townships which, in 1875, amalgamated and formed the town of Leigh. The others are Pennington and Westleigh.

The site gets its name from the ford of Beda, probably through Pennington Brook, where it now is spanned by Breaston Bridge. The area is 2,826 acres in size and lies partly on coal lands and red sandstone.

The population, in excess of 12,000, is employed chiefly in collieries, agriculture implement works, brickfields, iron foundry, brewery and the cotton, silk and corn mills.

BEDFORD PARK, MIDDLESEX

Bedford Park is a residential district partly within the boroughs of Acton, Brentford and Chiswick in Middlesex County. It is one of the first sections to be laid out (1875) as a separate suburb of London. It also is one of the earliest town planning ventures where architects made an attempt to build a complete neighborhood unit.

BEDFORD BANK, NORFOLK

This is a locality in Downham rural district, Norfolk. The Bedford Bank is not of any special importance in itself, being one of a number of embankments made for land drainage purposes in the Great Level of The Fens, otherwise known as the Bedford Level.

BEDFORD LEVEL (THE FENS)

Bedford Level is a flat, marshy district on the east coast of England comprising part of what is called The Fens. Included is the whole of the Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire, 89 square miles of Huntingdonshire, 98 square miles in Norfolk and small sections in Northamptonshire, Suffolk and Lincolnshire.

Extreme length from north to south is 60 miles and its breadth is 40 miles. Two cuts, or canals, the Bedford Rivers, the Old and New, have been constructed through the Isle of Ely to confluence with the River Stoke.

Much of the land has been reclaimed.

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—Mrs. J. W. Smith

The photo at top is a scene along Jan van Riebeeck Street showing a cafe, library and war memorial. The pictures in center and bottom are views of Donkin Street.

BEDFORD, UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

This quiet rustic village at the foot of the lovely Kaga Mountain has a European population of 900 and a non-European population of about 2,500.

After the rapid expansion of its early days, Bedford has developed very slowly through the years. This slow development must be put down to the absence of any stimulating industries and the gradual depopulation of the rural areas during the course of years.

The town celebrated its 100th anniversary during the second half of 1955.

Bedford's earliest history goes back to the years between 1778-1836 when the pioneer frontier farmers and the advance guard of the Xosas met on the banks of the Fish River. Both these races, the European and the Bantu, were, in the main, cattle farmers and were in search of land and grazing areas.

Thus it was almost inevitable that they should clash in the area of which present-day Bedford forms a large part. One of the finest grazing areas in the whole of South Africa, this area has been described by Louis Triegaardt as the "heart of Africa."

To make matters worse, the pioneers gradually were being overtaken from behind by a government which was not sympathetic toward them because of the influence of missionary negrophiles.

Tragic consequences resulted from this lack of understanding for the desire of stock farmers for land and security. By 1835 the position of many frontier farmers had become so untenable that Louis Triegaardt left the Colony and became forerunner of the Great Trek.

In 1820, the British settlers had arrived in this strife-ridden and insecure region. Included among these were several Scottish families who had settled along the Baviaans River to strengthen the European vanguard on the eastern frontier. Some of these families, persevering through the days of difficulty, have since had a lasting influence on the Bedford community.

Two great figures were prominent in the heat of this east-

ern frontier struggle. Both Andries Stockenstrom, senior, and Andries Stockenstrom, junior, tried to give direction and stability to the frontier. The elder Stockenstrom lost his life for his efforts to preserve peace. His son served in a number of important capacities in the government and became a land owner.

Ultimately he became responsible for the founding of Bedford.

In 1820, in return for services to the crown, Stockenstrom and others were given the right to select a piece of land for themselves along the eastern frontier.

Both Stockenstrom and another liked the present area of Lyndoch, but Stockenstrom withdrew his claim in favor of the other. Instead, he took a piece of land, 4,500 morgen, at the foot of Kaga Mountain. He named his farm Maasstrom.

Because he was a very busy Cape official, Stockenstrom did not at first settle on the farm. However, after being knighted in 1840 and with his health beginning to fail, he retired from Her Majesty's service in 1845 and retired to Maasstrom.

He threw in his lot with the colonists and became a member of the legislative council. In 1851, on his return from a trip to England, Stockenstrom found his property had been burned by enemies.

With a small pension, he went to live at Claremont, Cape Town, and while there started to sell part of the farm. In 1854, he sold the lower lying 1,500 morgen, 500 were divided as plots and 1,000 were attached as commonage.

Stockenstrom named the town Bedford, in honor of his great friend in England, the Duke of Bedford. He named the central square of the town Tavistock, after the Duke's estate in England.

It appears that a fair number of people settled in the town from the beginning. As early as 1854, the year of its founding, Bedford was granted municipal government. In a proclamation on August 13, 1857, Bedford, with its present boundaries, was proclaimed as a magisterial district. A church jubi-

lee pamphlet of the times said "there are few houses, but the sound of building can be heard on every side."

The first farmers in these parts applied themselves chiefly to sheep and cattle farming. Grain was produced for their own use where water was plentiful.

At the present time, Bedford is well-known for its Friesland and Shorthorn cattle and Merino sheep.

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BEDFORD COMMUNITY, ALABAMA

Bedford community once was a rural post office. About 25 years ago it was discontinued and the rural routes now come out of Sulligent, 12 miles away. The farming area has three country stores scattered over a three mile section, a cotton gin, a Methodist Church and a school. The nearest large town is Columbus, Mississippi.

Situated in Lamar County, the Bedford school community, as it is known locally, today has approximately 300 residents. How the town or school district was named is not known to present day inhabitants. Its main industry is farming, with cotton, corn and hay as the principal crops.

Nearby Lamar County Lake offers good fishing and swimming as well as being the center of attraction for picnickers.

Two school buses are used to transport children to the Bedford school which has three teachers. The elementary building has six grades in its three rooms.

Bedford community, thickly-populated, covers about four square miles with seven miles of paved roads. The old military road goes through the town into Columbus. The road was built by Stonewall Jackson as his men marched from New Orleans to Nashville. Years ago, one of the old taverns on this road was located in Bedford.

BEDFORD PEAK, CALIFORNIA

With a height of 3,720 feet, Bedford Peak is located in the Cleveland National Forest on the boundary of Orange and Riverside Counties, California. It is eight miles directly south of Corona.

NEW BEDFORD, ILLINOIS

New Bedford, with a population of about 200, is an incorporated village in Bureau County. It is built on the banks of the Green River at the site of a ford where early settlers crossed the stream.

Now 120 years old, it is one of the earliest settled towns in the area. New Bedford lies in a rich farming area in the northwestern part of Illinois. One of its chief attractions is the \$500,000 Bollman Memorial Park.

New Bedford was platted by Jacob Galer June 30, 1835. A book written about 1877 said of this town:

"It is a small town remote from the railroad, and consequently cannot hope to grow to any size. It contains two or three stores, a few shops, a school and two churches."

In the History of Bureau County, printed in 1885, Editor H. C. Bradsby said:

"Many years ago Jacob Galer built a mill where New Bedford now stands, but the dam caused an overflow on nearly all the lands above it."

In October, 1836, Henry Thomas entered the lands where New Bedford now stands. This was the first land entered in the western part of the county, except for a few tracts at French and Coal Groves. In 1837 a state road passed through the town from Hennepin to Prophetstown.

Three hunters and trappers, Frenchmen, lived for some time on Section 15. Later Caleb Rice lived at the same place. In 1839, settlements were made on Sections 20 and 29 and in 1840 and 1841 other settlements were made.

BEDFORD PARK, ILLINOIS

Bedford Park Community has been in existence since 1919 when a band of hardy individuals decided they would rather walk to work at the Corn Products Company than ride the street cars from Chicago. This was the founding of Bedford Park as a community, which later was to become a village.

The Park District was organized in 1939. Since that time it has grown by leaps and bounds and has become an integral part of the community.

Bedford Park District owns approximately 20 acres which are divided into various areas for recreation, gardening and other forms of entertainment. The area contains facilities for

baseball, tennis, horseshoes, shuffleboard, volleyball and basketball.

A fine picnic area is also available as well as a children's playground and wading pool.

Bedford Park is named for E. T. Bedford, president of the Corn Products Company. The small residential district, with a population of about 650, was founded as a housing project for employees of that company.

The town is proud of being unofficially the richest village per capita in the world.

Although the town has a population of 650, an average working day sees approximately 25,000 persons there because of various industries.

Located near Chicago, in Cook County, Bedford Park has a total of 1½ miles of streets. There are eight policemen and 19 firemen to protect the area.

The Bedford Park Community Building and Park, dedicated July 20, 1952, is one of the most modern and fully-equipped centers in the country. The building was set up for the threefold purpose of the people of Bedford Park, the village officials and the park board. It includes a firehouse, garage, offices, lounge, game rooms, hobby rooms, locker and playrooms.

Bedford Park, incorporated June, 1940, is part of Lyons Township.

BEDFORD, ILLINOIS

When James Daniels and his wife came to this area from Bedford, Pennsylvania, they had only wigwams to live in. However, these first settlers farmed and thrived and their descendants still are counted among the town residents today.

Located in Pike County, Bedford is a tiny community of approximately 50 persons. The Pike County Atlas, 1872 edition, says the original "town of Bedford was laid out April 16, 1836, by David Hoge. It is situated on the Illinois River and at one time bid fair to make an important point."

Daniels settled on the outskirts of the original town. His

son moved into Bedford and was a merchant and river pilot.

Today the town is composed of 18 residences. The school house was built by Silas Daniels, grandson of the first settler. It and one acre of land were deeded to Bedford. It still is in use as a school and church.

Farming is the main industry for the area. Situated 2,800 feet above sea level, Bedford has a growing season of eight months.

The Illinois River affords residents a good place for fishing or boating as well as a place to take a dip during the hot weather.

While there are no paved roads in the town, which covers an area of four acres, a motorist is only four miles from State Route 100 or nine miles from Route 36. Bedford is 78 miles from Quincy, Ill., 89 miles from St. Louis and 18 miles from Pittsfield, the county seat.

Bedford is proud of its past history as a milling town and shipping center. The town "died on its feet" when water transportation was made obsolete by train and motor vehicle.

One point of interest to be seen in the town area, oddly enough, is a chemical spring which causes petrification.

BEDFORD, INDIANA

Bedford's people have shown they know how to work and cooperate in building their town and its industries. But they also know how to play and take it easy when the time comes.

There has been much written about the "fullness of life," the "joy of living" and "contentment." In Bedford, Lawrence County, these words take on a real meaning to folks who enjoy the gifts of nature available in the many outdoor recreation areas.

Bedford, covering 2,804 acres, probably has more land in parks than any other city its size in the country—477 acres!

Two of the city's three parks have swimming pools. And at one park there is one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in America.

Ten miles away is Spring Mill State Park covering 1,400

acres, the most popular of Indiana's fine park system. Here are delightful picnic spots, shelter houses, trails, a bathing beach and a small lake for boating. The park also has a very comfortable hotel which is open all year around.

White River, at the city's doorstep, is the site for many cabins and cottages for people who enjoy the pleasure of forests and waters during the spring, summer and autumn months. The river is a source of activity for many fishermen as well as a source of supply for the city.

There is a fair amount of timber, mostly oak, hickory and walnut, in the area which provides the hunter with his sports. The forest supply is expected to be increased under the reforestation now being done by the U. S. Forest Service. When completed, the proposed Benjamin Harrison Memorial Forest will cover several hundred square miles southwest of the city.

Churchill Downs and its Kentucky Derby are only 70 miles away; the Indianapolis Speedway where the annual "500" race is held is 72 miles distant and the world-renowned Jenkins Gun Club is just at the south edge of the county.

Southern Indiana really is a delightful place in which to live, work and play.

Winters are mild, the spring season is long and beautiful, and the summers are not too hot. The colors of autumn are gorgeous and thrilling. The mean annual temperature is 54.5 degrees and the average rainfall is 42.9 inches. The town is located on hilly ground 709 feet above sea level.

These advantages enable the city's Chamber of Commerce to point out there is a direct connection between production, stability and natural environment. They reason that a person who enjoys life in the outdoors is happy and, therefore, a good worker.

Bedford folks use their off-days for fishing or hunting. Most of them own their own homes and have gardens. On Sundays, the 21 churches, representing 19 denominations, are well-attended.

Bedford is easy to reach either by bus or train. For the auto driver, travel is made easy and pleasurable by good roads. The town has 40 miles of streets, not counting U. S. Route 50.

and a number of state routes which run into the area. The Bedford Municipal Airport now covers 288 acres and its biggest runway, 4,900 feet in length, is long enough to accommodate most planes. Arrangements are being made to have an airline inaugurate service.

Bedford was incorporated in 1889 as a city after being founded in 1825 to replace the original countyseat of Palestine. Seven years after it was founded in 1818, Palestine was abandoned because its location was considered unhealthy and geographically unsuited. The county government was moved to the new town which was named for Bedford, Tenn. The first white settlers had moved into the area in 1810. Lawrence County was formed in 1818.

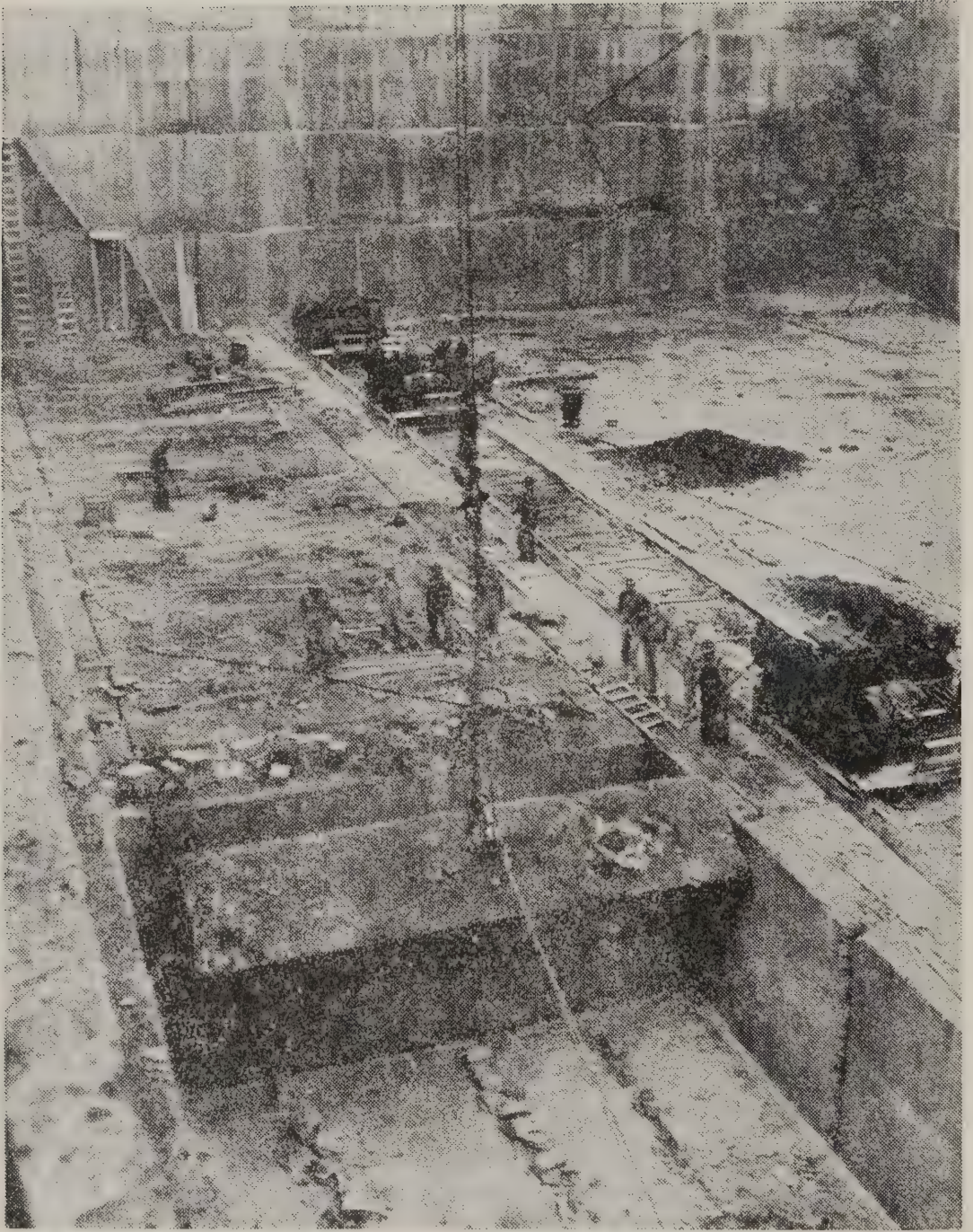
For many years, this area has furnished Indiana limestone which has gone into many important buildings in America. Its limestone has been used in nearly every state capitol building in the nation. The world's largest limestone quarries and mills are located here.

The industry declined to a very marked degree during the 1930s, but the traits of Bedford labor have been used in other industries, many of them vastly different from quarrying and stone carving. During a two-year period, the Bedford office of the Indiana Employment Service placed men and women in 185 different job classifications.

Frankly, Bedford (and Southern Indiana) is a surplus labor area in normal times. A lot of the residents were on the WPA. Some found jobs in other cities. But people like to live in the hills of this region. When jobs become available, they come back home to stay as long as there is work for them.

Few cities in the nation have such a remarkable record of manpower conversion as this community of 16,087 persons. There is a great romance of business and the war effort to be told in the story of Bedford's transition from stone to steel.

The Allison Division of General Motors took over two stone mills and employed 900 people at the war's peak, producing aluminum cylinder heads for Allison engines. With the exception of a few supervisory employees, the entire personnel learned the molding trade locally.



—Indiana Limestone Company Inc.

A key block being removed from an Indiana limestone quarry.

General Motors officials were so pleased with the labor situation and facilities offered that they established a separate division. This division now employs approximately 2,200 persons. Construction of additional plant space is under way and the total number of employees is expected to reach 3,000.

During World War II, the Indiana Limestone Company Inc. contracted to weld Sherman tank hulls. This company and the Ingalls Stone Company subsequently received contracts for parts of LST and LCI ships. Bedford High School operated 24 hours a day training welders—a brand new skill in this area.

Bedford workers, 97.5 per cent native born, are congenial, solid, salt of the earth folks. Evidence of these traits is shown in high production records, a minimum of absenteeism and the fact that there have been few industrial strikes.

Bedford is an ideal location for decentralization, expansion and establishment of business ventures. Since 1946, more than a dozen new industries have been opened in the city. Officials of these firms have found local labor to be dependable, congenial and acceptable. They have recognized the valuable know-how of Bedford workers.

The efforts and cooperation of the entire community have helped to further Bedford's industrial diversification program.

To cite one example, all existing plant space had been utilized and funds were needed to obtain industrial building sites. Public spirited citizens went into action. An "Industrial Revolving Fund" was established with investments ranging from \$5 to \$1,000. Six sites were purchased, the largest containing 28.5 acres.

Not only has industrial progress been made in the city, but businessmen have provided a shopping center that serves a three-county area. Stores have been modernized and merchandise in all price ranges is offered.

Bedford's three national banks boast total resources in excess of \$22 million. The local tax rate is not excessive and assessments are based on a scientific system.

Cooperation is not confined to any one group. Circuit Court Judge Chester A. Davis observed that Lawrence County

"has been throughout the years and is now a friendly, happy economic unit in which all of its elements unselfishly cooperate."

Businessmen and industrialists have the support of governing agencies.

Mayor Ivan H. Brininger said "the city administration and Chamber of Commerce have worked together in making possible the progress of this community and they shall continue to do so."

Others, too, have felt the cooperative spirit.

Publisher Stewart Riley of the Bedford Times-Mail told the story of "a stranger (who) came into the office recently and said 'This must be a good town. Everybody is telling me how well you work together. Must be true as there are so many signs of civic cooperation.' That pretty well typifies hundreds of similar expressions. The very growth of the community bespeaks civic spirit and mutual helpfulness."

Municipal and county officials are alert to the need for expanding and improving facilities to accommodate growth of the town. In recent years, new equipment has been purchased for the two fire stations, several new housing developments have sprung up and a \$635,000 water expansion program was financed to take care of industrial progress. The radio-equipped police force also has been increased.

Bedfordites and other residents of Lawrence County are proud of their Dunn Memorial Hospital which is considered one of the finest in the state. On May 20, 1951, a new wing was opened to give the institution a capacity of 120 beds.

One of the architectural gems of Bedford is its new Park-view-Central Elementary School. The all-purpose room of the school is open for community group meetings in the evenings.

Bedford also has a splendid modern high school, a junior high school and four other grade schools, including a parochial school. There are three other schools in the nearby area. Indiana University is only 23 miles away.

The town also has provided for its youth in other ways. Bedford Boys Club has an enrollment of about 1,100 young-

sters and a residence has been converted into club headquarters. There also are numerous scout units, both for boys and girls.

A careful program has been worked out for children and youth of all ages in Bedford. Each week some 250 youngsters benefit from planned projects at the youth center. Sponsors of this center have opened facilities to any organized youth group which wishes to hold meetings in the club rooms.

Five miles away is beautiful Bedford Christian Camp operated by the Christian Churches of Indiana. The camp is located on a high bank overlooking White River and has accommodations for 157 boys and girls.

This then is Bedford, Indiana, where people have learned to work together and because of that have earned the right to play.

BEDFORD, IOWA

Historians, as they are so apt to do, sometimes dwell on tremendous trifles and neglect to include in their writings some of the more important phases of history. This, it seems, is the fate which has befallen the record of just how Bedford got its name. Histories of the area disagree on how the town was named although two of the more popular theories say it was named by one of the surveyors who made the original government plat of the county.

In fact, there are four different schools of thought regarding naming of the town, which now has some 3,000 residents.

One school contends Bedford was the namesake of Bedford, England, being so designated by the English who passed westward from early Colonial settlements. There could be some basis in fact for it is recorded that the original spelling, typically British, was "Beadforde."

There are others who feel it was named for Bedford, Pennsylvania, home of the government engineer; another group declares it was a Bedford, Indiana, native who made the original survey and who named the town for his birthplace.

These theories are individually subscribed to by the now



—A. W. Hamblin

Court Street, Bedford, Iowa

existing histories of the county, but neither substantiates its beliefs with chronicled facts or records.

The fourth contention in the name of Bedford comes from Bolckow, Missouri, where Lewis Bedford asserted his great-uncle came into Iowa in 1849 to establish a store and serve as Bedford's first postmaster. This claim is not substantiated by the U. S. Postal Department, however, which says the town of Bedford was not listed as a post office until 1856.

The postal authorities said:

"The Bedford post office in Taylor County was originally established as Grove on June 30, 1855, with Adam Vinnedge as the first postmaster. On June 24, 1856, the name was changed to Bedford."

Mr. Bedford claims the town was named for his great-uncle, Thomas J. Bedford. The Bedford family first came to eastern America from England prior to 1736 and later generations moved west. Four brothers arrived in Missouri more than 100 years ago and one of the four, Thomas, went into Iowa from St. Joseph to establish a small trading post store at a site in or near the present limits of Bedford, Iowa.

In this store, he also handled mail for the early settlers

who were his customers and for the few traders and travelers who came his way. Mr. Bedford was not a regularly appointed postmaster, but for a time he handled the mail addressed in care of "Bedford's Trading Post."

This he did, relatives claim, as an accommodation for his patrons long before the first regular U. S. post office was established. "Bedford's Store and Trading Post" became shortened to just "Bedford" and thus the town got its name, according to assertions by relatives.

Thomas J. Bedford, himself, it is said, joined the 49ers in gold rush days and moved to California.

In any event, the town was named and began growing. It marked its 100th birthday in 1953. During its first one hundred years, the town and Taylor County have seen Indian raids and wagon trains pass into history. Still it is only a short step backward in time to the age when Bedford had its beginning.

In 1834, legislators of Michigan Territory, of which Iowa was a part, provided for the creation of counties within the territory. Later, when Iowa was part of Wisconsin Territory, 22 counties were established. Still later, when Iowa became a territory 23 more counties were added and then when it became a state boundaries were changed and divisions made so that now Iowa has 99 counties.

Before 1850, surveyors had crossed the land now known as Taylor County, but their markings were crude. Boundary stakes soon rotted. Instances where earth mounds were used became confused with gopher mounds. Thus surveyors' corrections had to be made.

An act defining Taylor County passed the Iowa third general assembly and was signed in January, 1851. The county was named for Gen. Zachary Taylor who died in 1850 after serving as U. S. President for only 16 months. In 1880, Bedford Township was formed.

After Taylor County was organized, selection of a county seat was next on the agenda. During the winter of 1852-53, the general assembly appointed three men to locate a "seat of justice" for the county.

In March, 1853, they chose the southwest corner of Sec-

tion 26, Township 68, Range 34 as the county seat. At the April court term in the same year, a surveyor was ordered to lay off the town of Bedford stipulating that sale of lots would take place July 4, 1853.

A writer said of the sale "no person attended the sale except the farmers of the county. A barrel of whiskey was on the grounds and after they had drawn freely the sale commenced, and most of the lots surveyed were sold at prices varying from ten to twenty dollars . . . Not a single lot was paid for, or title or title bond given, and if any record was kept of the sale, it is not to be found among the records of the county. It is but just, however, to say that these sales were so treated in nearly every instance."

In 1863, the first courthouse of the county was built on a site immediately south and east of the present building. This first structure was a stone building, two stories high, the courtroom was on the second floor while county offices were below. Almost from the first this courthouse was inadequate in size and equipment.

A proposal to build a new courthouse was overwhelmingly voted down by the people in the 1880s. A number of people, largely from the community of Bedford, subscribed \$10,000 and petitioned the board of supervisors to call a special election to vote on a courthouse proposition and a levy of \$40,000 to be raised over a three-year period. The proposition carried and the present building was completed in 1893.

A famous argument centered about the question of whether Bedford was in Iowa or Missouri. It almost led to war between the two states before the U. S. Supreme Court settled the dispute in 1848. The court voted in favor of Iowa.

Ripples in the Des Moines River, near Keosauqua, were cause of the "Honey War" which the dispute was called.

In 1816, a government surveyor had established the northern boundary of the Territory of Missouri, mentioning the "rapids of the Des Moines" as one of the boundary marks.

In 1837, the State of Missouri appointed commissioners to resurvey the northern boundary. These commissioners found ripples in the Horse Shoe Bend of the Des Moines River, near

Keosauqua which they assumed to be the "rapids of the Des Moines" mentioned in the act of Congress defining the boundary. These ripples, however, had never before been called the rapids of the Des Moines. The real rapids are about 11 miles away.

The conflict over the disputed territory, a strip about eight miles wide, began when Clark County, Missouri, placed names of the citizens of the area on its tax list. When the Missouri officers tried to collect the taxes for Clark County, the settlers in the disputed territory refused to pay. When the sheriff tried to collect the "delinquent taxes" he was arrested and clapped into jail.

It was just about this time that a Missourian cut down three bee trees on the disputed tract and the Iowan who owned the trees had him arrested. A judgment for \$1.50 was made against the Missouri man and the term "Honey War" was applied to the conflict.

The arrest of their sheriff so angered the Clark County citizens that they petitioned Governor Boggs of Missouri for military aid. The governor called out the militia of 1,000 men to help the Clark County officers collect the tax.

Governor Lucas of Iowa then called out the Iowa militia and in a short time 600 men were camped near Keosauqua and 600 others were on the way there.

Before hostilities could begin, a delegation was sent to Governor Lucas to settle the controversy peacefully. Missouri withdrew her troops and the Iowa militia was disbanded. Later Missouri's Clark County rescinded the order for collection of taxes and the case was submitted to the Supreme Court.

Edwin Houck, who is sometimes called the "founder of Bedford" came to Taylor County in the spring of 1854. Shortly after, he purchased a tract of 80 acres of land in what is now the town of Bedford. After emigrating from New York and Pennsylvania his first home in Bedford was a log cabin, the second such building in Bedford. It was located on lots 7 and 8. Block 11, Original Town of Bedford. This location now is taken up by the post office and other business buildings.

Mr. Houck was active in the interests of town and county.

He established the first printing press here and later was editor and publisher of a county newspaper. At present, Bedford is served by The Times-Press which was formed in 1932 with a merger of the Times-Republican and the Free Press under ownership of A. W. Hamblin.

The railroad is closely tied in with the growth of Bedford.

Actually it was the location of the Burlington's right-of-way which was the final determining factor in making Bedford the county seat of justice. However, the road did not come to Bedford until 1871.

From an humble beginning, where the only fire protection was a neighborhood bucket brigade, Bedford has seen its fire department grow into the modern equipped company of today. A fire hall, the same now occupied, was completed January 1, 1884. The fire bell, still used in emergencies, was purchased and hung in March, 1884.

Not all the fire meetings were devoted strictly to business. One entry in minutes for June, 1884, reads: "Motion made and seconded that every man wanting to use chewing tobacco while attending meetings, bring his own spittoon.—Carried."

A half-century ago, Bedford's water supply came from five hand-dug wells located in the eastern part of the town. Erected in 1901, a 100,000 gallon standpipe was supplied with water from these wells. Also dug in that vicinity more than 50 years ago was a deep well. However, residents didn't use this well because the water had a salty taste.

Early settlers of Bedford were idealistic and optimistic as all pioneers had to be in those hectic, dangerous days. Such a man was Stephen H. Parker. His home, Fort Parker, was one of the early land marks of the county.

The Parker home served as a rendezvous in both peace and war. When Indians were on the war path, the Parker residence was headquarters for those making plans against the redskins.

In 1852, Parker built the first house with a shingle roof after transporting the shingles by wagon from St. Joseph, Missouri. He also imported bricks for his fireplace and chimney from a point near Maryville, Missouri.

The one-story house had a circular stairway from the ground floor to a corner of the loft. The historic old building was destroyed by fire some years ago.

In those early days, women had to obtain their flour from St. Joseph. If a horse needed shod, the nearest available blacksmith was at Maryville. There was not a single bridge between the Parker house and St. Joseph and many times a stream was crossed by tearing wagons apart and floating them across the water in hollowed out logs.

Another famous personage in those early days was "Capt." George Wellington Streeter. Many years ago Streeter, an itinerant lake boat operator, claimed squatter's rights on 160 acres of lakeshore land in Chicago after his houseboat had been cast up on the shore by heavy winds. Attorneys could find no government patent on the land at the foot of Michigan Avenue. The Streeters were removed, however, by riparian rights which classed the ground as silt land legally attachable to the ground adjoining it.

In 1921, the city built a modern filtration plant. A cement dam was erected across the river at the east edge of town and water then was pumped from the reservoir thus formed by the dam into the city's filtering and treatment basins.

Bedford now gets its raw water from the Lake of Three Fires.

The city's daily consumption of 200,000 gallons of safe city water is made possible by the filtration plant. Since 1941, the water system has been managed by a three-man board of trustees.

In 1948, the old standpipe was replaced by a new 200,000 gallon capacity water tower. The city also has a complete sewage system and disposal plant.

When the Lake of Three Fires was completed in 1936, it opened new vistas for the outdoorsman. Here it is that thousands of visitors enjoy the numerous park facilities such as fishing, bathing, picnicking and nature study. Within the park area are three propagation pools where bass, crappies, blue gills and bullheads are raised. They later are put into the lake while some are transferred to state waters.

The lake, with its 125 acres of water, is fast gaining a reputation as one of the best bass lakes in the state.

Today's modern Bedford and Taylor County owe much to the pioneer farmer who displayed great courage and endurance almost beyond belief to clear their land and establish their first farms. They were a self-sustaining group of resourceful men and women who improvised for practically all their needs.

Those first few scattered farms of 100 years ago were unpretentious and simple compared with those of modern times.

The typical pioneer farm home was furnished primarily with home made furniture. The more prosperous tiller of the soil had a pot-bellied stove and a wood burning range, but many others were content with an open fireplace for heating and cooking.

The floors, if covered at all, had rag rugs padded with straw. Mattresses were made of feathers or straw and the crude, but sturdy, beds had no springs.

Today's farm is a far cry from those of a century ago.

Electricity has brought about many changes to make the farm home more efficient and comfortable. Gas or oil now heats the home while radio and television bring the world to its doorstep.

FOR A NIGHT'S ENJOYMENT

MOONLITE DRIVE-IN

FEATURING HOLLYWOOD'S BEST FILMS

Routes 56 and 220, North of Bedford, Pa.

FOR SWIMMING UNDER THE STARS

CHALYBEATE PARK

CHALYBEATE ROAD

PICNICS

BOWLING

BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

BEDFORD, KANSAS

Back in 1879, when Bedford was in its heyday as a farming and cattle center, it tried to become the county seat of Stafford County. Vying with Stafford and St. John, Bedford may have lost its big chance when a tornado blew away the ballot box.

Today there is hardly anything left of the town which at one time boasted a population of about 60 souls.

When the town was founded in 1879, it first was called Center because of its location. Its name was changed to Bedford in 1881.

There never were more than a dozen or so buildings in the town and all were frame structures. The houses were small and the school had only one room. Now only the cemetery remains.

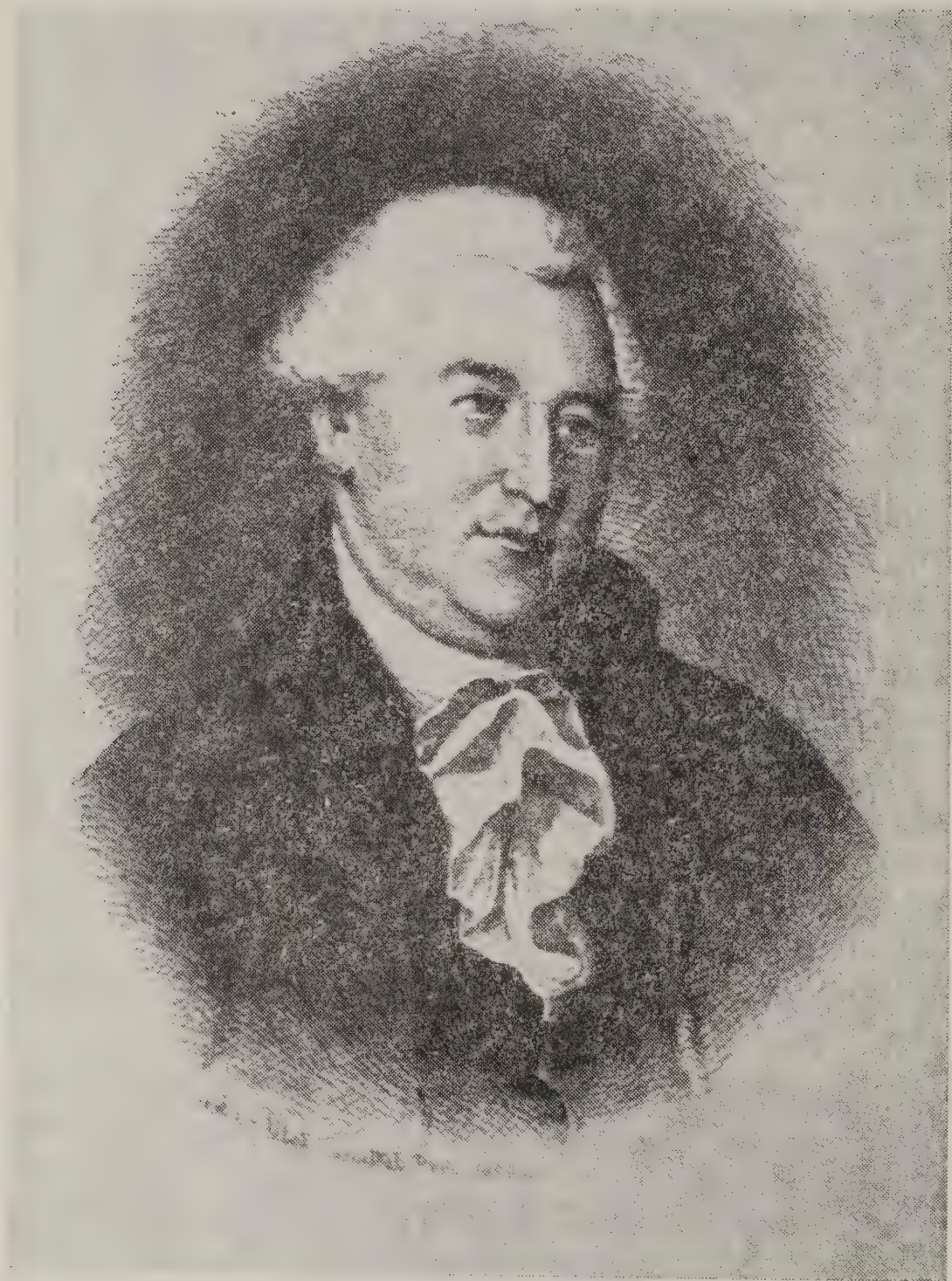
The town site is located 40 miles from Hutchinson and 35 miles from Sterling. Stafford and St. John are about 10 miles away. At one time, Bedford was served by a combination train daily and there were horses available for drawing carriages and wagons.

Not much has been recorded of the town history and today there is hardly anyone alive who remembers its earlier days.

Back in September, 1889, the Weekly Telegram, published in Stafford, described Bedford as "a new and wide awake town." The paper recommended Bedford to merchants wishing an opening in a new town in the center of a rich and prosperous country.

Claus Feldhut owned the land and had it surveyed into lots for a town site. He sold ground to anyone who wished to settle. When the town was abandoned he gave the purchaser his money back. Feldhut owned and operated the only store in the community and the post office was located in one corner of the store.

It was Feldhut also who donated land for the cemetery which still is maintained on a site a half-mile from where the town was located.



—Historical Society of Delaware
Gunning Bedford Jr., 1747-1812

BEDFORD, KENTUCKY

Bedford, the county seat of Trimble County, is a sedate little community of 550 white folks. Its last Negro resident died early in 1954.

Located in peaceful surroundings, Bedford is 50 miles from Frankfort, the state capital. Eighty miles away is Lexington, the heart of the blue grass region and the home of great race horses as well as the University of Kentucky.

On the main street of Bedford, two of the nation's great highways intersect—U. S. 42 and U. S. 421. The latter highway also runs through Milton, the only other town in the county. At Milton, travelers cross over the picturesque Ohio River into Madison, Indiana.

Early in the 19th Century, travelers from all points of the compass used this select location as their overnight stop because of easy access to plenty of water. On a high ridge, which runs through the center of the county, stood a large spring-fed pond where animals and men quenched their thirst.

Passersby found this spot near present Bedford a convenient place to rest.

A short distance from the pond, on a lower level that was protected from the elements, these travelers made their campsites while they waited for friends and relatives. Some of these folks stayed on to make it a permanent affair and a village soon took shape.

The town was called Bedford and was incorporated February 6, 1816.

Legend says a relative, and other admirers, named the town for the Revolutionary War statesman, Gunning Bedford, Jr., who represented Delaware in the Continental Congress and at the Constitutional Convention.

A town board was formed with Jack Pryor as the first mayor. Other members helping with town affairs bore the family names of Bell, Peake, Logan, Chandler, Bartlett, Miles, Colbert, Blank, Lane, Newkirk, Weatherby and Parker.

The first real post office was established in 1821 while Bedford still was a part of Oldham County. This was on the

main route from Frankfort to Columbus, Indiana. Prior to this time an old rock, one-half mile north of Bedford, was used by travelers in relaying important messages. Today it lies idle on the Barnes farm, but visitors still can see its tell-tale letter holes.

A young lad of 14, riding mule back, braved the dangers of this rugged trail to carry the mail over the newly-established route in 1821. Each round trip consumed a period of two weeks' time. A native of the town, this mail carrier later became the prominent Judge Richard Bell. Descendants of this hardy pioneer still are among the residents of the town and county.

Trimble County was formed from parts of Oldham, Henry and Gallatin Counties. The 86th in order of formation, it was named for Judge Robert Trimble.

In Bedford, streets were mapped and laid out in regular style in due time. The pond was left as a square and soon it became filled in with natural drainage and debris from the town.

In 1836 the town of Bedford donated the "Old Pond Square" as site for the first courthouse which was erected one year later. This edifice was constructed of brick and was patterned after the one at Westport, Kentucky, with one large courtroom on the ground floor and four large jury rooms on the second floor.

After weathering 138 years, the rock foundation stands today in the same location where Richard Bell, overseeing slaves, had the large rocks hauled by a team of oxen from the farm which later became the V. Y. Hancock home. Bricks used in the building were made at a kiln near the Y intersection of Routes 42 and 421.

In the formative years of the county, two other buildings were erected in the courtyard.

A stone jail was built in 1837 and a second story was added in 1899. This stone jail, with its white fence, has been mentioned in several historical sketches as the place of confinement for Delia Webster who was arrested for helping runaway slaves. In the days before the Civil War, she used a large

cave for the underground railway to help slaves north across the Ohio River to freedom.

Shortly after the courthouse was built, a need was felt for more room to house records of the county's clerk of courts and the circuit clerk. It was necessary to build a two-room brick structure west of the courthouse.

This building today houses the Trimble County Democratic headquarters and the John Rand Insurance Agency. The building was discontinued from its original purpose in 1884. This building and the jail are among the oldest structures still standing in Kentucky.

Another point of interest is the Old Bedford Springs. These springs, located one-half mile south of Bedford, were known in their heyday as a famous health resort of the South.

It was in the late summer of 1836 that Noah Parker and his wife found the springs while they were hunting a turkey's nest. They sat down to rest at the foot of a hill where a spring seeped from the ground. They tasted the water and found it had a strange flavor. The couple had it analyzed and discovered it had a mineral content.

This was the beginning of the Bedford Springs. Year by year buildings sprang up until 1848 when it reached its peak of popularity.

One night in August, 1851, the whole setup came to an end. There was a ball in progress with several hundred persons in attendance. Suddenly, the fiddler was stricken with cholera. Chaos spread over the grounds.

Morning found the place deserted and little life has been seen there since. The remains of the large ballroom stand as a reminder of the gay parties enjoyed by the beaus and belles of a century ago.

By 1884, the county affairs had outgrown the courthouse and it was necessary to have a new and larger edifice. The old building was torn down and rebuilt at a cost of \$16,000. On March 5, 1952, this building was gutted by fire of undetermined origin.

But with a progressive spirit, citizens of the town made plans for a new and modern structure. The present two-story

fireproof building is of colonial design with large white columns flanking its entrance on Route 42. It is of brick, steel and concrete construction with an asbestos shingle roof. The new building cost \$100,000. The work was financed without a bond issue or special tax of any kind and it is, undoubtedly, unique in public building construction.

In the dedicatory program July 18, 1953, Kentucky Governor Lawrence Weatherby said:

"Seldom in our lifetime do we have the opportunity to dedicate a courthouse. You have here one of the finest in Kentucky. It is more than a temple of justice—it is a symbol of democracy and we need to advertise democracy to the world."

Standing staunch atop the courthouse is the Democratic weathervane rooster, a replica of the one lost in the 1952 fire. John Rand, county Democratic chairman, says it declares to the world that Trimble County still holds the banner as the strongest Democratic county in the state, percentagewise.

Bedford, lying quietly in its tranquility, is a dry county. It has four churches, a weekly newspaper—The Trimble County Democrat; five grocery and general merchandise stores; five service stations; a central county high school; one bank and several other businesses.

The county is strictly a rural agricultural area and produces tobacco, strawberries and tomatoes as cash crops during the year. Small grains, beef and dairy cattle also are featured. From its orchards come fruit said to excel any grown elsewhere in the country.

NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

"One of the most interesting cities in America."

That's what residents of New Bedford call their town.

The New Bedford Board of Commerce asks visitors to come to the town "if you love ships and revel in the sight and scents of sails—ropes—rigging; if you want to find the answer to how men lived on board a whaleship for years on end; if you want to sense the romance and feel the thrill of experiences.

lived on the seven seas; if you want to know intimately the only complete record of the birth, life and death of a great industry and, finally, if you want to see what a city did when its one great industry was gone."

New Bedford can show you all these things.

In his great story, "Moby Dick", Herman Melville wrote: "The town itself is perhaps the dearest place to live in, in all New England . . . Nowhere in all America will you find more patricianlike houses; parks and gardens more opulent than in New Bedford. Whence came they?—All these brave houses and flowery gardens came from the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. One and all they were harpooned and dragged up hither from the bottom of the seas.

"In New Bedford, fathers, they say, give whales for dowers to their daughters, and portion off their nieces with a few porpoises apiece. You must go to New Bedford to see a brilliant wedding; for, they say, they have reservoirs of oil in every house, and every night recklessly burn their lengths in spermaceti candles.

"In summer time, the town is sweet to see; full of fine maples—long avenues of green and gold. And, in August, high in air, the beautiful and bountiful horse-chestnuts, candelabra-wise, proffer the passer-by their tapering upright cones of congregated blossoms."

The visitor is invited to walk up Johnny Cake Hill to the Mariners' Home, a typical mansion of the whaling period. Next door in the Seamen's Bethel you can see the unique Cenotaphs of the Sea Dead. Here, too, you will see a simple tablet dedicated to memory of Cap'n George Fred Tilton, most picturesque of whaling captains, who walked many miles through an Arctic night to save the lives of 200 companions caught in the ice.

You can cross the street to the whaling museum of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society. Its humpback whale skeleton is one of only three in the United States. Here you may go aboard the Lagoda, largest whaleship model in the world.

On the walls are displayed a large variety of whale irons and figure heads taken from prows of bygone ships. Here,

also, you will see examples of the old ships that carried on trade in New Bedford during the whaling era.

Remember the story, "Mutiny on the Bounty"? New Bedford will show you the navigation book of the *Bounty* which was brought back from Pitcairn by a sea captain.

In addition to a magnificent collection of ship models, New Bedford also can show you many famous paintings and statues recalling the whaling era.

In New Bedford's municipal building, there is the oldest continuous meteorological record system in the United States.

Driving around, perhaps to see the yachts and ships on the waterfront, the tourist is confronted with modern mills hugging the shore with the residential section rising behind on the hill.

Many visitors are attracted to the ever-active, always fascinating wharves. New Bedford is the home port of one of the great fishing fleets of the North Atlantic. Coast guard cutters, lighthouse tenders, cargo and naval vessels are there, too, to add interest to New Bedford Harbor.

The port of New Bedford is located in southeastern Massachusetts on the western side of an estuary of Buzzards Bay at the mouth of the Acushnet River. It has a large and well-sheltered harbor practically landlocked by the mainland on the east, north and west sides, and by Palmer's Island on the south.

The port is not a creation of recent origin, inasmuch as its historical significance is reflected and memorialized by those hardy pioneers of many years ago who went "down to the sea in ships."

On the contrary, its record of progress and unarrested development has been accomplished by intermittent stages. Over a period of years, it has kept pace with ever-changing economic conditions. These changes have had varying effects insofar as the welfare and livelihood of its people are concerned.

In the 1850s during the height of the whaling industry, New Bedford developed to become the leading center of this enterprise in which some 327 vessels, manned by more than 10,000 men, were engaged.

Decline of the whaling activities began in 1859 following

discovery of petroleum in Pennsylvania and in ensuing years, these activities passed into oblivion.

The fishing industry, because of its phenomenal growth during the early years of World War II, occupies a prominent place in the port's activities as one of the nation's 10 foremost food-fishing ports in landings. For several years, it has achieved fourth and fifth rankings in respect to valuation of its catch.

Estimated value of the industry as a whole is affixed as slightly in excess of \$60 million and comprises such allied businesses as filleting and cannery firms, shipyards, freezers and ice plants, machine shops, fishing gear supplies, equipment and other services required to maintain and operate the enterprise.

New Bedford, located in Bristol County 14 miles south-east of Fall River, has had a very interesting history in the last 300 years.

In 1652, a group of Englishmen bought from Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag Tribe, the township of Dartmouth. Included were Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven and Acushnet.

The City of New Bedford first bore the name of the Town of Dartmouth. This territory was settled in the 1650s and in 1664 it was incorporated as the Town of Dartmouth. In 1787, the name was changed to New Bedford and it was incorporated as the City of New Bedford in 1847.

The town was named after the Duke of Bedford by a member of the Duke's family who was one of the first settlers in the area.

Noted for its charm, healthful beaches, pleasant drives and woods and lakes, New Bedford has a population of 109,189 with a greater community population of 135,961. The town covers an area of 19.39 square miles. Its 218 miles of streets are all paved and it can be reached by U. S. Route 6 and Massachusetts Route 140.

Sixty feet above sea level, New Bedford has a mean annual temperature of 52 degrees with 45 inches of average rainfall, but only 1½ inches of snowfall each year. The ground is clear for 98 per cent of the winter.

The area has every resort requirement, winter and sum-

mer. There are four golf courses, 10 parks, three pavilions, several baseball diamonds, four tennis courts, three bathing beaches, two yacht harbors, fresh and salt water fishing. Also featured is riding, hunting and scenery to make it an artist's paradise.

The town has 11 fire stations with 279 firemen and three police stations with 207 patrolmen and officers. It can be reached by 17 bus lines and one railroad.

A total of 19 denominations are represented in the 82 churches of the town. The 14 hotels have 330 rooms and the four hospitals have a capacity of 369 rooms.

When the whaling industry came to an end, New Bedford found new industry.

Today it manufactures textiles, pajamas, underwear, screws, small tools, eyelets, cut glass, rope, dresses, elastic belts, boys' clothing, all kinds of cloth, bedspreads, shoes, paper goods, radio condensers, boats and other items.

That's why New Bedford was and is "one of the most interesting cities in America."

JUST A FEW STEPS TO THE BEST STORES,

MOVIES AND RESTAURANTS

FOR A REAL VACATION

STOP AT THE

PENN-BEDFORD HOTEL

MODERN — CLEAN — COMFORTABLE

BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Bedford was given a boost back in the World War II era when the federal government established a large air field near the community in Middlesex County. Population has increased rapidly during the past two decades because of the proximity of the field, which itself has grown into quite a "city".

However, old Bedford has been in existence for more than 300 years. It was chartered in 1729, but its history goes back to the early 1640s. Its name was given by a minister of Concord who had come to this country from Bedford, England.

Settlers are believed to have been in the town area for nearly a century before the town was incorporated.

Originally part of Concord and Billerica, Bedford was taken from them when the "parent towns" had nearly reached their first centennial. When residents, disliking the distance they had to travel to church, petitioned the general court to become a separate town, Bedford was formed from the west part of Concord and the north and east sections of Billerica.

The present town also includes the former area known as West Bedford and Bedford Springs. The latter formerly had a small railroad station which has been discontinued.

The first reference to a permanent settlement mentions the Shawshire House in 1637. This building was a trading post. Michael Brown built a grist mill on the Shawshire River, but this building later was burned by Indians in King Philip's War. A saw mill was later built on the same site by Herbert Clark.

Bedford's oldest houses, many of which still are standing, date back authentically to the 1660s as recorded in the registry of deeds. Only a few now are occupied by direct descendants of the builders, but almost all remain unspoiled and unchanged by "restorers."

In 1642, the first house was occupied by the English in this area. That was when the settlement comprised a part of the Musketaquid Grant, all of the Winthrop Grant and a part of the Shawshire Grant. It represented part of the first inland

town of Massachusetts with its western boundary as the Concord River.

On September 23, 1729, the town was incorporated by the general court in Cambridge provided residents should, within three years, "erect, build and finish a suitable house for public worship of God, and procure and settle a learned orthodox minister of good conversation and make provision for his comfortable and honorable support, and likewise provide a school to instruct their youth in writing and reading."

So nearly completed was the meeting house before the act of incorporation was granted that the first town meeting was held in it.

In 1733 approval was voted to settle a moving school and hire a master. Townspeople were selected as teachers and the school moved as justice and convenience demanded. In 1741 the town purchased a dwelling house to be converted into a school house.

The school moved into four quarters of town in 1742 with the teachers boarding around as the school moved. People in the "quarters" were obliged to furnish home and firewood free of charge in order to have the school in their area.

Districts were not arbitrary. Ambitious children could follow the school from one quarter to another on provision they furnished part of the firewood. In 1806 a school house was erected in the town to replace one building remodeled 73 years before. One of the first church schools in America was established here in July, 1819.

Another first of which Bedford is proud is the old Bedford Flag, carried by Cornet Nathaniel Page in the company of Minute Men which went from Bedford to Concord April 18, 1775. All but the too old, too young and the women of Bedford went to the fight at Concord.

Opening of the Middlesex Turnpike in June, 1805, caused much anxiety in Bedford. They believed the road, a private enterprise, would draw travel from the village and injure the town. The turnpike was built without regard to hills or ponds and enjoyed some success. However, the professional teamsters were slow to abandon the old familiar routes and discard

the hospitality of the long established taverns in Bedford.

Opening of Chelmsford Road in 1823 contributed greatly to facilities for travel and Bedford became a popular thoroughfare. Competitive stage routes were established from Concord, New Hampshire, to Boston. Bedford was a way station where relays of horses were housed.

Since public conveyance was available, a post office was established in 1825. The first mail to leave the town consisted of one letter. In 1873, opening of the Middlesex Central Railroad furnished direct and easy communication with Boston.

Despite coming of the railroad, manufacturing died out and the town reverted to agricultural pursuits, particularly the growing of small fruits and vegetables and dairying.

Bedford has progressed far in the 225 years since it was incorporated. The town now has many facilities including good stores, churches and schools.

Present employment in Bedford is concentrated in manufacturing and in federal hospital and air force installations. From a residential town with a commuting population, Bedford has become a center of employment providing jobs for many persons with homes in other communities. There still are some commuters here and also a limited amount of agriculture is carried on.

The town strives valiantly to absorb the hundreds of new residents who arrive each year. A half-century ago, there were only 200 voters in the community. Today there are 2,500. Town population is estimated at 5,000.

Although the air field is known far and wide as "Bedford Airport" there is no such place officially.

The air field was established in 1937 by Laurence G. Hanscom as a civilian airport known as Boston Auxiliary Airport at Bedford. In 1941, when Hanscom, a Boston newspaperman, was killed while instructing Royal Canadian Air Force personnel, the base was named officially after him by the commonwealth legislature.

In 1942, the group headquarters and one squadron (the 89th) of the 79th Fighter Group, U. S. Army Air Force, were

activated and trained here. They went on to fight in Africa, Italy, South France and Austria.

It was called the Minute Men of World War II.

After the war, the 89th Fighter Bomber Wing (Reserve) stayed at the field. The air force, which became a separate service in 1947, sent the 2234th Air Force Reserve Combat Training Center to train all of New England's reservists. This organization still is on the field. Also in the area is the air explorer office which runs all the senior boy scout programs in New England.

The state maintains its airport here also and uses it as an alternative to Logan Airport in Boston. Near the airport was established the East Coast Aero Technical School to train civilian aircraft mechanics. Massachusetts Institute of Technology did wartime research here and still has a research hangar on the base.

The navy also has a guided missile and radar center at the field. Other facilities of private companies as well as governmental agencies are to be relocated here.

After the Russian threat appeared, and especially after the early explosion of an atom bomb in Russia, it was decided to establish a research facility here to accommodate Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Boston University scientists.

The base also included a weather detachment and other units. It supports many local ROTC groups and all of the USAF recruiters in Massachusetts. The field today is in charge of the 6520th Test Support Wing.

At the present time, a \$60 million reconstruction program is under way. Being built are new hangars, buildings, runways, barracks, officers' quarters, mess halls and administration buildings to replace the farm houses, huts, and tents that were being used.

There are 2,400 airmen, and equal number of civilians and about 500 officers at the field.

Until the arrival of Bedford air base and World War II, the town was principally an agricultural community, but now with its sudden growth in population, size and economy,

residents of the town seem slightly bewildered.

However, the older residents hope the town will not change its personality. Even with the sudden influx of hundreds of new families, Bedford still is colonial in atmosphere, still elm-shaded, still governed by a town meeting and still "Old Bedford."

BEDFORD, MICHIGAN

Bedford is an unincorporated village of about 300 persons near Battle Creek, Michigan.

Bedford Township, which covers approximately six square miles, has a population—mostly rural—of some 1,200 persons.

Located in Calhoun County, Bedford probably was named for Bedford, England, although some believe it was named for a man named Bedford who arrived here in 1833.

Bedford Village is closely allied with Battle Creek since it is situated just four miles north of the larger city. Its newspapers, radio and television programs—all come from Battle Creek, and, of course, such other towns as Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Lansing.

While Bedford has no clubs to rightly call its own, town residents are members of such Battle Creek organizations as the Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis and Optimists.

The history of Bedford Center, which has been known familiarly as "the burg," dates back to July 9, 1832, when John Bertram located on lands in Bedford Township. While he may not actually have been a settler of Bedford, tradition does say that a man named Bertram was in the area about this time and was a brave and valiant volunteer in the Black Hawk War.

When Willard Nye arrived in the area in the fall of 1836 after travelling from Cayuga County, New York, he said there were no settlers north of the River Road, except for Harlow Merrill who lived just over the county line in Barry County.

Nye and John Armstrong, with their families, came into the area to build a saw mill for Matthias Hutchinson who had earlier settled there. Hutchinson built a log cabin for them

to live in while they built the saw mill.

Nye and Armstrong went to Bedford Center on the main thoroughfare from Detroit to Battle Creek. These two families travelled from the East together, bringing all their possessions with them. They hired teams to take them from Detroit and were seven days making the trip.

Armstrong is given credit for building the first saw mill in the Bedford area. John Meachem, later a resident of Battle Creek, was agent for Hutchinson while the mill was being constructed since Hutchinson spent much of his time back in the East. Danial Davidson also arrived about this time to help put in good service with Nye in erecting the mill. V. P. Collier, later president of the First National Bank of Battle Creek, also put in work here with axe and spade.

Through the good work and perseverance of this band, the mill was finished and ready to begin working in August, 1837.

Meachem came to Battle Creek in 1835 and remembered there were only four settlers in Bedford at that time. They were Josiah Gilbert, who lived on the north side of the river on the road leading to Gull Prairie, about four miles west of Battle Creek; John Conway, on the south side of the river near the later location of Pratt's Mills; George Johnson, near Conway's Place, and a man named Tower, who lived on the place later owned by Jacob Stringham.

Previously, however, a man named Roswell Crane had located on the Gilbert place, probably in 1833 or 1834, and he most likely was the first settler. Eli Douglas located the Stringham farm early in 1835. Harvey and A. W. Cooley, brothers; S. H. Carmen, their brother-in-law; John Hamilton and Jonas Young, all with families except A. W. Cooley, came in the summer of 1836 and settled four miles west of the village.

It was about 1840 when Erastus R. Wattles was appointed postmaster for Bedford Center. At that time, a through mail route was established from Battle Creek to Hastings. A man named Salter had the contract and carried the mail on horse-back.

Somewhere around 1842-43, a tri-weekly stage line was started on this route by Col. John Stuart.

When the whites first came into the area, there was a small Indian village here where the redmen cultivated the lands and had several acres of crops.

The first election was held in 1839, on the first day of April in the house of Josiah Gilbert. After electing the necessary officers, the group voted to erect a pound in the center of town and named John Meachem poundmaster.

In 1870, one old history book described Bedford as an excellent agricultural district, producing abundantly of wheat, corn, oats and other grains. It is also an excellent, fruit-growing region, because of its hills and dales. On the whole, the township is rather broken. It is watered by Seven Mile and Bascon Creeks and Bascon Lake.

BEDFORD, MISSOURI

Located in Livingston County, Bedford gets its name from a steamboat which came up the Grand River and became stranded near the present site of the old town.

The steamboat, "Bedford", ascended the river soon after a few settlements had been formed. However, when it was 12 miles southeast of Chillicothe, it was stranded and went to pieces. The village of Bedford was located near where the accident occurred and derived its name from the boat.

Founded in 1837, by William Le Barron, a Frenchman from St. Louis, Bedford first was called "the town of Laborn". After he platted it in 1839, Le Barron gave it the name of Bedford. It was thought he was interested in the steamer which was wrecked here.

Legend says that Thomas Standley, one of Bedford's earliest settlers, entered the area and lived in a hollow sycamore tree. "There he read Shakespeare by the light of a sycamore ball floating in a saucer of coon grease." Standley and other early pioneers entered the area in the 1830s.

People of Bedford traded at Brunswick on the Missouri River, about 40 miles away. Goods were hauled by ox team

at 50 cents a hundred pounds for freight.

Bedford later became a thriving community. But when the Burlington Railroad was built south of the town a large portion of the buildings were removed to that site. Here a new town, Hale, was established.

Although Bedford still stands, it is just a shell of its former self.

BEDFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bedford has been undergoing a change in the last decade or so.

Located in Hillsborough County, the town covers about 17,000 acres and is more or less a square. Until the last 10 to 15 years, Bedford was an agricultural town, but it is now assuming a new role as a residential area.

For many years, there was a post office here but since 1925 the town has been served as part of a rural route.

In 1900, a railroad was laid from Manchester to Milford with one of the stations located in Bedford. At that time, much lumber was shipped from here. The railroad, however, was closed about 30 years ago.

At present, children from Bedford are transported to high school in Manchester. At one time, the town had 11 one-room schools, and recently, citizens voted approval for construction of a new six-room school building.

For more than a century, Bedford has had one church—Presbyterian. The large Catholic population must attend services in nearby towns.

Although the town's population is just about at the 2,400 mark, there are many organizations in the community. Included are the grange, sportsmen, girl scouts, boy scouts, women's clubs, PTA and church groups.

Located on the west side of the Merrimack River, Bedford is opposite the city of Manchester. On the north is Piscataquog River which empties into the Merrimack.

In 1664, Bedford was included in the grant of land made by the general court of Massachusetts to Passaconaway, the great

sachem of Pennacook. For the next 70 years, little can be said about the area except that the voice of John Eliot, the great apostle, could be heard in the forest, soothing the wild nature of the Indian and telling him of a better way of life.

Wannalancet, son and successor of Passaconaway, was the pupil of Eliot. Wannalancet's character was so changed by Christianity that he was called "Wunnelanshonat" or "one breathing soft words." Rather than join his nation in a war against the British, the chief and his family retired to Canada.

The general court of Massachusetts, finding it no longer expedient to remember the former grant to Passaconaway, in consideration for services given by officers and soldiers in the war with King Philip, issued to these soldiers, or their representatives, charters of seven townships of land. One of these, located here, was named Souhegan East, or Narrangansett No. 5.

Very few of the 120 grantees became settlers, however.

In 1735, a man named Sebbins, from Braintree, put up his camp here for the winter and engaged in making shingles. Sebbins Pond got its name from him.

The first permanent settlement was made in 1735 by Robert and James Walker and Matthew and Samuel Patten of the Scotch Irish emigrants, many of whom had settled in Londonderry.

Many others also settled here. Their innate love of civil and religious freedom was a guaranty that the patriotism of the citizens would be felt when they came to resist foreign rule.

In 1750, the town was chartered and received its present name. It was named Bedford in honor of the Fourth Duke of Bedford, English minister of state who was a friend and correspondent of Governor Benning Wentworth.

In 1760, during the French War, Col. John Goffe of Derryfield commanded the regiment of 800 raised by the province of New Hampshire to join the expedition against Canada. Bedford furnished her share of these soldiers.

But in the Revolutionary War, the people, zealous in their sharing of dangers and sacrifices, gave about 100 men—nearly

half of the male population. Many served at Bunker Hill and on other fields.

Bedford always has been an agricultural center, but recently it began emerging more as a residential area.

The section along the Piscataquog has supplied a large amount of white and hard pine and oak timber for shipbuilding. Its lofty trees found their way to naval and maritime ports as masts.

Special attention also was given to hop culture and until 1836, Bedford was the largest hop-growing town in New England.

NEW BEDFORD, NEW JERSEY

New Bedford is not a town, but rather a settlement within the Township of Wall, Monmouth County. Its background dates to the early stagecoach days when a New Bedford Inn was a stopping place for stages on their way to the ocean from inland communities.

This inn, later called LaDeauville Inn, burned down some years ago.

Wall Township, with a population of about 7,500, formerly was part of Howell Township, one of the first townships in Monmouth County.

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BEDFORD, PA.

BEDFORD CORNERS, (BROOKLYN) NEW YORK

A person standing at the busy intersection of Bedford Avenue and Fulton Street in Brooklyn today sees very little to remind him of the important incidents which took place here back in the dim reaches of 1776.

Today, the honking of auto horns drowns out all contemplation of the important past. There is hardly anything to remind one of the historic interest of the site.

Yet, here, during the Revolution, stood the hamlet of Bedford. In this vicinity some of the important events of the battle of Long Island took place.

Near the line of present-day Fulton Street once lay old Jamaica Road, or as it was sometimes called in earlier times, the king's highway. From the ferry over the East River, at the foot of present-day Fulton Street, the road ran to the village of Brooklyn (in the vicinity of where Fulton and Hoyt Streets now are) thence to the hamlet of Bedford and on to Jamaica.

At Bedford Corners, the Jamaica Road was intersected by a crossroad. One branch of this latter road, the Clove Road, stretched in a southerly direction to Flatbush, while the other branch, called Cripplebush Road, went in a northerly direction to Newtown.

The settlement of Bedford seems to have begun in the last years of Governor Stuyvesant's administration (1647-64). There was an inn at Bedford as early as 1668.

By 1775 when one historian described Brooklyn, he said it was "a pleasant but quiet agricultural town, numbering between three and four thousand inhabitants, who were mostly grouped within three or four hamlets or neighborhoods."

One of these hamlets was Bedford, consisting of some scattered farmhouses with their surrounding fields. Not very far away from Bedford Corners, the center of the hamlet, some of the battle of Long Island took place.

The battle, itself, was some time in growing.

After the British were defeated near Boston, and also at Charleston, South Carolina, in the Revolutionary War, large numbers of red-coated troops landed at Staten Island with the

idea of attacking New York City.

Washington, after his success at Boston, went to New York City and would not give up the town without a fight. He intended to put up a battle for New York even though his army was much inferior in size, discipline and equipment to that of the British.

The heights on the Brooklyn side of the East River were the key to possession of New York for if the enemy could capture these heights, he could easily take New York.

Fortifications built by the Americans stretched across from Wallabout Bay to Gowanus Creek. The main work was Fort Putnam on the site of today's Fort Greene Park where the monument stands in honor of the prison ship martyrs.

However, the battle of Long Island did not take place along this line of fortifications, but farther south along a range of low hills where the Americans had established some outposts.

On August 22, 1776, the British under General Sir William Howe landed without opposition at Gravesend Bay. Through this landing they took possession of the level plain where South Brooklyn is situated today.

Before he could get at the fortifications put up by the Americans, Howe had to penetrate the long range of hills which extended northeasterly from New York Bay. These hills were covered with thick woods and made a strong defensive position.

There were three roads which ran through passes in these hills and joined with the Jamaica Road. These were the Gowanus Road near the shore; the road from Flatbush, and the Clove Road which branched off from Flatbush Road and met the Jamaica Road at Bedford.

Along the wooded range of hills, the Americans had about 800 men at each of these three passes. This was all the manpower which could be spared.

Far to the east lay a fourth pass through the hills, the Jamaica Pass, near the site of the present Evergreen Cemetery. This pass, because of the shortage of troops, and more particularly of cavalry, was almost unguarded.

General Putnam commanded the main forces of Americans behind the fortifications near the East River, while his subordinate, General Sullivan, had chief command of the outposts stationed at the three passes. The total American strength on Long Island was about 7,000 soldiers. The British numbered about 21,000. That was how things stood when the battle of Long Island began in August, 1776.

Through sympathizers with their cause, the British heard that the Jamaica Pass was not guarded. At 9 p. m. on August 26, 1776, 10,000 men under command of Howe, Clinton and Cornwallis started from Flatlands to the south of Flatbush and, making a wide detour, reached the Jamaica Pass at 3 a. m. on the 27th of August. The only American soldiers in the area were several mounted officers on patrol duty. They were easily captured.

After a brief rest, the British marched to Bedford and reached there at 8:30 a. m. Thus, by making a nine mile flanking move during the night, the British were now directly in the rear of the left of the American outposts. Their approach was not known to the American camp at Brooklyn. The American force at Bedford Pass, halfway between Bedford and Flatbush, also was unaware that it was trapped.

The British attacked in a southwesterly direction from Bedford. The Americans turned to meet the danger, but were driven back and forced to flee as best they could.

Along the Flatbush Road, in what is now a corner of Prospect Park, General Sullivan's men were caught between two fires. The Hessians, paid soldiers of the British, advanced from Flatbush while the British threatened from the rear. One historian says that as the imperiled Americans "hurried down the rough and densely wooded slope of Mount Prospect, they were met on the open plain of Bedford by the British light infantry and dragoons and hurled back again upon the Hessian bayonets . . ."

General Sullivan's men were forced to give way, many of them were killed or captured. This exposed the outposts along the Gowanus Road to danger.

A force of British advancing along this road was attack-

ing the Americans there, while their rear was threatened by the British coming along the Jamaica Road. However, through bravery of the American leaders and their men, most of the American detachment in this part of the battlefield was able to reach the American fortifications in safety.

The British flanking expeditions had the Americans as good as defeated by reaching Bedford. The story of how Washington skillfully rescued the American army after the battle of Long Island is told elsewhere.

However, during the remaining years of war, a number of British soldiers encamped at Bedford. The entrance to their camp was on what today is Bergen Street, near Franklin Avenue. In excavating the land here, many relics have been found.

BEDFORD, NEW YORK

The township of Bedford, New York, covers an almost perfect square, each side being six miles in length. It includes three unincorporated hamlets—Bedford (also known as Bedford Village); Bedford Hills, (formerly known as Bedford Station), and Katonah. Bedford Center is about midway between Bedford Village and Bedford Hills. Also within the township boundaries lies a part of the incorporated village of Mount Kisco. Bedford Township is in the northern part of Westchester County.

Located here, serene among the rolling fields 40 miles from New York City, is one of America's most eminent homes—Bedford House, which was built in 1801 by John Jay, the first chief justice of the United States. When he retired in 1801 after many years of service to his country in various important offices, Jay lived for 28 years in Bedford House. He died in its library in 1829. Since his death, descendants have occupied the home continuously.

The land of Jay's estate was bought from the Indians in 1703 by his grandfather for seven blankets, several barrels of rum and some pieces of eight. After building one house in 1785, Jay personally supervised construction of Bedford House.

The house today is a historian's dream for it contains more than 2,000 letters from contemporaries of Jay, including Washington and Adams. Valuable paintings and furniture also are contained here.

Bedford is proud of its history and traditions and its natural beauty, much of which has remained unspoiled despite its nearness to the teeming millions of New York City.

Bedford is one of the oldest of all towns by that name on the North American continent. The first settlement in the township itself was made in 1681.

The name "Bedford" does not appear in the town records until 1683, or about two years after arrival of the first settlers. Before then, Bedford was "commonly called the hopp ground." This name probably derived from the abundance of wild hop vines which were growing there when the white man first arrived.

It does not appear that the town was named after Bedford, England. There is no evidence that Bedford, England, was represented among the first settlers. One historian, however, has suggested the town was named "to keep and leave to posterity the memorial of several places in our dear native country of England."

A book which was destined to become a world classic was written in Bedford, England, two years before the Bedford, New York, settlers bought their first pieces of land from the Indians. John Bunyan, tinker turned preacher, wrote "Pilgrim's Progress", as the story of one individual's journey, through dangers and discouragements, to a destination which meant for him all that was desired.

Even as it was being written, other men were enacting in real life the step-by-step progress of those who, like the hero in Bunyan's allegory, were seeking wider horizons, more physical and spiritual elbow room and the right to live their lives unhampered and unafraid.

Some of these—the Pilgrims of the Plymouth Colony—had begun their progress when the Mayflower sailed in 1620. Still others were the Puritans of Massachusetts Bay, from whose settlements a group had migrated westward, by way of New

Haven, to Stamford, in the Colony of Connecticut. And as a part of this same journey toward wider horizons, a company of Stamford men, on December 23, 1680, bought the first lands in this new settlement that was to become Bedford. They took possession the following spring.

Generally speaking, the progress of those who carried on this search for new home sites had been along the seacoast. A few did strike boldly inland. They were forerunners of those who in later years took their creaking prairie schooners across the continent. And among the first of those who had courage and the foresight to turn their backs on salt water and the safety and security for which it stood were the Stamford men who settled Bedford.

In his book, Bunyan had written of "the enchanted ground."

The lowland meadows that were to be Bedford must, indeed, have seemed to their new owners to have merited a name no less picturesque. Surrounded by rolling hills and wooded uplands, they were crossed here and there by streams of crystal clear water. They were, if not "enchanted ground" themselves, of such a sort as to cast a spell over all who looked upon them, even as they do today.

To the credit of the white settlers of Bedford, it is written that they bought and paid for the lands that passed into their possession from the Indians.

The first grant of land that now forms a part of the township was signed on July 1, 1640. Nathaniel Turner, representing the New Haven colony, bought from Ponus, sagamore of Toquams, and Wascussue, sagamore of Shippam, a tract of land running eight miles along Long Island Sound, including the present site of Stamford, first called Rippowam. It extended 16 miles inland to the northwest and therefore took in a portion of the present town of Bedford. Stamford was settled during the following year by a group of men from Wethersfield. No inland settlement was made until 40 years later.

It appears that in 1680, 22 Stamford men became convinced the time had arrived for them to migrate away from the sea and go inland. On December 23, 1680, they bought a tract

of land from Indian leaders Katoonah, Rockahway, Sepotah, Jovis, Tomacoppa and Kakenand. The land they purchased was "a certain parcel of meddow and upland commonly called and known by the hopp ground, which land lyes at the north of Stamford bounds, as it is already bounded by markt trees."

As it is to be supposed, the "markt trees" have long ago disappeared and it is difficult to follow boundary lines of this tract and others conveyed in seven grants which came later. The first purchase was known for years as "Bedford Three Mile Square" even though it measured somewhat larger. It took in the southeastern section of the present town and contained 7,673 acres.

The acquisition of land, beginning with the first purchase December 23, 1680, and ending with that of January 23, 1772, covers a period of nearly a century. It was a peaceful time, even though the Indians probably had heard of the massacre which occurred in February, 1640.

This was a massacre that was the reverse of most of those later recorded in American history. It was the Indians, and not the whites, who were victims of such cruel and barbarous treatment as any told in the history of the conquest of this continent.

Captain John Underhill and a party of 130 Dutch soldiers landed at Greenwich in February, 1640, as part of the general campaign of the Dutch of New Amsterdam against the Indians in the area. The Dutch marched to the Indian village located at the base of present Indian Hill, near where the roads meet from Bedford to Stamford and Poundridge.

The night was lit by the moon as the invaders reached the Indian town and charged with drawn swords. With superior weapons, the Dutch killed nearly 200 of the Indians. While these bodies lay in the snow, the remainder of the warriors fought to protect their homes and loved ones from the attack.

The Indians, forced to retreat to their huts, fired from loopholes. Underhill, showing no mercy, ordered his men to burn the huts with the warriors—and their women and children—inside.

History says the Indians "would not even gratify their

enemies by the least sound that might betray anything like pain or terror; although more than 500 Indians, many of them women and children, perished miserably on that awful night, not one was heard to cry or scream."

This was perhaps the blackest and bloodiest chapter in the township's history. Despite the fact that the English had no part in the massacre, the long period of friendship with the Indians in Bedford is to the credit of both races.

Besides dealing fairly with the Indians, the township records also show the settlers tried to deal fairly among themselves. They named a committee to lay out house lots but provided "no man's house lot shall be less than three acres."

Each proprietor then had a lot of three acres on the village street in addition to a share of the "east field" and a smaller tract in the lowlands and similar portions of the "north plains" and "west plains."

A "common" of three acres was created and it became a New England tradition to have these "commons". The Bedford Common, reduced to about one-third its original size, now is the Bedford Green. Here cattle were pastured as well as on other unallotted grounds.

With the communal use of the pasture lands, the proprietors still were sticklers to the rule that "what's mine is mine and what's thine is thine." A town brander was selected to avoid disputes when cattle were pastured together. Each animal was branded.

Bought for a total of 46 pounds, the original "hopp grounds" tract cost each of the settlers two pounds. It was voted on October 11, 1681, that a new inhabitant, paying 40 shillings, could have an equal share with the proprietors in all the undivided lands.

These first settlers helped one another as the occasion arose and constructed a group of homes along the town's first street. With one possible exception, it is probable all these houses were destroyed when the British burned Bedford in 1779.

One of the first acts of these early pioneers was to provide a site for a meeting house and a lot where their future minister

should be housed. Another was arrangement for construction of a mill. Taken together, the acts show the character of the men who built Bedford.

They were deeply devoted to the spiritual traditions they inherited from their English ancestors and were aware that "man doth not live by bread alone." However, their rigorous life also taught them that bread, too, had its place in life. Because they had to raise the grain to make the bread, the mill would scarcely be less important than the meeting house.

The meeting house and the mill symbolized the attitude of the early generations of Bedford people. They had a genuine concern for the spiritual development of their town and at the same time they had a high regard for its economic development.

During these years, the settlers were busy with clearing their lands and building their homes. They gave little thought, probably, to legal formalities needed to give their settlement proper legal status. However, in 1685 the Colony of Connecticut insisted all towns obtain official patents to provide themselves with evidence of titles and other rights.

At a town meeting held in 1687 it was voted "there shall be money raised to pay for a patent and that every right in the town shall pay an equal proportion." A committee also was named to apply for the necessary patents.

This was just about the time the Colony of Connecticut and the Province of New York got into a dispute over the boundary line between the two areas. The British had taken New York Province from the Dutch in 1664. Right in the center of the argument were the communities of Bedford and Rye, even though their people showed a definite preference for remaining under jurisdiction of Connecticut.

The dispute delayed granting a patent from Connecticut until May 20, 1697. Meanwhile, governors of the two neighboring jurisdictions engaged in lengthy correspondence over possession of the two towns. The battle raged until March 29, 1700, when King William settled the controversy by including Bedford and Rye in New York. The people of Bedford agreed as gracefully as they could to a situation over which they had

no control. They applied to New York authorities for a patent which was granted April 8, 1704.

Earlier, on May 16, 1682, the general court of Hartford "upon the petition of the people of the Hop Ground . . . doth grant them the privilege of a plantation, and do order that the name of the towne shall henceforth be called Bedford."

The members of the general court also provided for a moratorium on the paying of county taxes which in effect amounted to a three-year subsidy for the new town. Life in those pioneer settlements hardly produced much money to pay into the public treasury.

The court appointed one "Joseph Theale to be the present chief military officer of the train band", which was forerunner of the militia which played a vital part in the struggle for independence a century later. The train band really was a unit of colonial militia of Connecticut, but still was a local unit intended to provide military training for members.

Tradition says that certain recruits, in order to tell their right foot from their left foot, had hay tied around one foot and straw around the other. There is no evidence that this military group ever had service against the Indians, because relations were cordial with the redmen at the time.

However, it was in just this type of military group that many early Americans received the training needed for service in the French and Indian Wars. Military training apparently continued more or less regularly throughout the colonies from the beginning of the "train band" to inception of the "Minute Men" and other units of the continental militia which were to carry on the fight for independence.

Beating the drum was an important civic duty in those early days. It was the sound of the drum that called the pioneers to worship and no doubt it was also used to spread the word of a town meeting or other gathering. The armed forces also were alerted by the drummer's beat. It was the drummer too who probably acted in capacity of town crier and who read aloud all public notices and important news.

Civic duties were not to be taken lightly in those days because "the gravy train" is not new in politics. In 1687-88, it

seems 18 men at a town meeting voted themselves a bonus. They provided that "every one here present at the town meeting shall have a piece of land containing four akers added unto theyr former dividens for theyr faithfulness at the attending of town meetings."

Even in those early days, a community learned to keep its eye on its politicians.

Word of mouth was responsible for the dissemination of news, even during the Revolution. A newspaper or letter may have arrived from time to time, but more likely the news was spread by travelers or residents who went to other communities on business.

Each town was self-contained in its social, political and economic interests. What they were thinking, doing or saying depended on how it would affect their own community and their own way of life.

It was more than a century after Bedford's settlement in 1681 that reference to schools is found on the town records. These records reveal that education was confined to teaching the three Rs—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. One record indicates it was the pastor of the local church who gave early education to these people.

The town voted in 1813 to go along with new laws of the State of New York providing for common schools. However, prior to that time, the Bedford Academy had been established. It was one of the first institutions of its kind to be chartered by the regeants of the University of the State of New York after its establishment in 1784.

Most historians probably will say the Revolutionary War involved economic and political issues. But in Bedford, at least, religion also had some bearing on the matter. The issue of religious freedom reached the acute state about 75 years before the first shots were fired at Lexington and Concord. Local revolt rumblings were heard over the religious question shortly after Bedford and Rye came under the jurisdiction of New York in 1700.

Benjamin Fletcher, governor of New York, was an ardent supporter of the Church of England. He tried to have Bed-

ford residents help support, through taxes, the parish rector at Rye. This imposition was openly criticized by the Bedfordites.

While there were, of course, some Church of England members in Bedford, most others were affiliated with the Presbyterian congregation and were called "dissenters" by the "established" church. Zachariah Roberts, one of the most forthright in publicly airing his distaste of supporting a clergyman not of his own choosing, and John Jones, pastor of the Bedford Church, were told to appear before colonial authorities in 1705 on the charge, among others, that they "refused to take any affidavits in behalf of the Church of England, the Queen and the government of New York."

Roberts also was charged with procuring "the passage of an act, at the town meeting, enjoining upon the people not to pay Mr. Pritchard (the rector at Rye) anything." Jones bitterly attacked the Church of England in one sermon to his congregation, two town residents charged.

The Revolution resulted in the complete separation of church and state and allowed the Presbyterian and Episcopalian and other churches to work hand in hand even as they do to this day in Bedford.

Actually, Bedfordites were slow in deciding what they thought about the move toward American independence. Some remained loyal to the King to the end. Most of the issues at stake did not affect the farmers and residents of the rural regions, such as Bedford, as much as they did the city residents and tradesmen.

At the time just prior to the Revolution, Bedford was almost completely a self-sustaining community. It imported very few items and exported even less. Legal documents, requiring stamps which roused the big city residents to fury, were used rarely. If tea couldn't be had without paying a tax, then the thrifty Bedford housewife did without or used sassafras bark or various herbs as a substitute. The people were of the sort who bear many wrongs patiently before using violence as a means of enforcing right.

But once the Bedfordites were convinced their hope of preserving their rights was in the move for independence,

they were prepared to pay the cost. And they did pay when they watched Bedford burned by a detachment of British cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton on July 2, 1779. Up until that time, the town of Bedford had felt the impact of wartime conditions only indirectly.

While Bedford's two companies of Minute Men probably had seen some action and the town was alerted every now and then by the approach of small parties of British, they were more or less minor episodes.

Bedford's farms, too, had been struck by roving bands of Cowboys and Skinners who sought forage and supplies for the English army. These, also, might be considered minor.

But the burning and destruction of Bedford was a full-scale wanton, ruthless operation.

Sir Henry Clinton, British commander at New York, issued orders that the rebellious residents of northern Westchester County were to be made to feel the full severity of war. Tarleton was given the assignment. He also was to capture Major Ebenezer Lockwood of Poundridge, member of the committee of safety who had a 40 guinea prize on his head.

Tarleton, with a force said to be from 200 to 350 men, left July 1 from a point near present Mount Vernon and marched through New Castle Corners and Bedford Village to Poundridge. A short, but sharp, engagement with colonial cavalry was fought and the Americans had to retreat. Major Lockwood, absent at the time, had his home burned. The village meeting house also was fired.

Tarleton began an orderly withdrawal, but militiamen, probably with the help of area residents, rallied and began a harassing action on his marching column. In the manner of the men at Lexington and Concord, these harassers fired "from behind each fence and farm yard wall."

When Tarleton had reached Bedford Village he was so irked by the musket fire that he threatened to burn the town unless the Americans stopped. In a report made later, Tarleton said: "They interpreted so mild a proposal wrong, imputing it to fear. They persisted in firing until the torch stopped their progress, after which not a shot was fired."

According to tradition, only one house in the entire village escaped being burned to the ground. Tarleton continued his retreat toward White Plains while smoke boiled up from the place where just hours before had been a town of happy people.

At that time, many of Bedford's men were away in the uniform of the militia or continental army. Building materials as usual during wartime, were hard to obtain. So it is not difficult to assume that in 1781, a century after Bedford was founded, the town area again was ringing with the sound of hammer and axe. The Presbyterian meeting house was not rebuilt until 1783 and reconstruction of some homes may also have taken that long a time for completion.

Bedford had already taken an important place in municipalities of Westchester County. The inferior court of common pleas and the court of general sessions of the peace had held meetings in Bedford meeting house May 26, 1778—a foretaste of the time when Bedford would be the site for one of Westchester County's two courthouses.

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BEDFORD, PA.

In 1778, the board of supervisors of Westchester County met at Bedford for the first session of that body during the Revolution. On January 5, 1779, the supervisors again met in Bedford and levied quotas of shoes and stockings to be furnished by various county towns for use of soldiers in the field.

Bedford was asked to provide 23 pairs of shoes and 27 pairs of stockings. Bedford farmers were skilled in making and repairing their own shoes and every housewife could knit expertly, as well as do spinning and weaving. So these were probably busy times in Bedford as the town worked to meet and pass its quotas.

By 1850, the character of the people had not changed much since Revolutionary days. There were more people, of course, but they were in the main still farmers with a sprinkling of merchants, professional men and artisans. Their principal purpose in raising crops still was to provide food for their own tables. They exchanged some products with each other and only a small part of what they raised was exported.

What was exported from the area was sent over the roads which had been extended and improved. The goods were taken to the Hudson River or Long Island Sound where they were loaded on boats for New York.

Although it was self-supporting and self-contained, Bedford in 1850 was one of the more populous and most influential areas in Westchester. Population of Bedford, according to the census of 1840, was 2,822. New Rochelle had 1,816 and White Plains had 1,087. Yonkers had 2,969 people.

Bedford was at this time, and for two decades more, a half-shire town, or one of the county's two seats of justice.

Shortly after the New York state government was established, Bedford had been declared a half-shire town, sharing these honors with White Plains, the traditional Colonial shire town.

In 1786, the county board of supervisors had appropriated 1,800 pounds for building courthouses and jails in Bedford and White Plains. The present courthouse was built the following year. The old building, which faces Bedford Village Green, has undergone no structural changes since it was built in 1787.

Several years after the courthouse was abandoned, the county board of supervisors deeded it to the town of Bedford. Since then it has been used for public meetings.

Before construction of the courthouse, local and county courts had been held for years in the Bedford Presbyterian Church. Sessions of the county and supreme courts and meetings of the county board of supervisors were held alternately in the Bedford Courthouse and in the one at White Plains until 1868 when White Plains was declared the official county seat.

Building the railroad brought changes when the roads bypassed Bedford and caused the commercial importance of the village to decline. Farming, always the town's chief industry, was diverted to dairying to meet the growing needs of New York City. Railroads, too, caused shifts in population and White Plains forged ahead of Bedford.

The beginning of the end of Bedford Township's influence as a place where men met to transact important public business was in 1831 when the legislature of New York granted a charter to the New York and Harlem Railroad Company. After innumerable problems were solved, a bridge was built across the Harlem River and the line extended its tracks into Westchester County where they reached White Plains in 1844 and Croton Falls by 1847. Its completion was to have a profound effect upon Bedford and other rural townships through which it passed.

The faster method of transportation was one means of doing away with the necessity of having two county seats in Westchester County and the practice lasted about two decades after arrival of the railroad.

As commuting to and from New York City became easier, more and more people moved their homes to the communities in the lower part of the county. Here the towns grew into cities and far outdistanced their rural counterparts in population and in commercial and industrial activities. Also population was attracted to points in the township more strategic along the railroad line. Mount Kisco came into being as also did Bedford Station, now known as Bedford Hills. Whitlock-



—George P. Coopernail, M. D.

Bedford Court House was built in 1787. There have been no structural changes since it served Westchester County as one of two seats of justice. The building now belongs to the Town of Bedford.

ville, a small hamlet, moved to the railroad and became known as Mechanicsville and later Katonah.

This community, first built at a point where the Cross River flows into the Croton, has changed locations twice. First it moved about a mile to the east to be on the railroad and then shortly before the start of the 20th Century it moved to its present location. The latter mass migration was caused when much of the city's land was condemned to extend and increase New York City's system of water supply reservoirs.

The rapid freight transportation allowed the farmer to produce goods for export to New York City. Bedford soon became dairy country and many farmers trucked cans of milk to the nearest railroad station for pickup by the daily milk train. Beef cattle also became another important facet of farm life.

Some years before start of the present century, a new trend was felt when wealthy people, charmed by the natural beauty of Bedford, together with other advantages, began buying lands and converting the farms into country estates.

The advent of the automobile allowed commuters to live farther and farther away from the rail stations and Bedford soon became what it is today—a place for homes of people who do not produce the essentials of life from their own soil.

Like many other towns, the history of Bedford ties in with development of travel facilities.

On October 11, 1681, the proprietors voted to name a committee to view the land "for the purpose of laying out a cart way to the hop ground."

The settlers used this road, cut through the forest, to haul in their furniture and other belongings for their new homes. This road and other similar roads served the area for many years. The invention of the motor vehicle about the turn of the century radically changed the highway setup everywhere.

The first "improved" road in the township seems to be State Road 52, the present Route 172, between Mount Kisco and Bedford Village, a macadam highway which was authorized in 1900 and built in 1902. From this the highway program has continued until today there are about 130 miles of highway.

BEDFORD, OHIO

Situated in Cuyahoga County, Bedford first was settled in 1813 by Elijah Nobles. One of its famous citizens was Archibald M. Willard, painter of "The Spirit of '76", who was born here in 1834.

Bedford was given its name in 1826 after a township government was formed by Daniel Benedict, an early resident, who suggested the name in honor of his birthplace—Bedford, New York.

In 1823, there were sufficient settlers to form Bedford Township. The town of Bedford was incorporated March 15, 1837. It began as a farming center and later developed into an industrial area. Today it is described as a middle class suburban community with some industry. What formerly was farm country around the city now is developing into industrial and population centers.

Today it has a population of about 11,500 with a greater community population of 35,000. The town size is four square miles.

Located only 12 miles southeast of Cleveland, Bedford was one of the original areas in the Western Reserve surveyed by Moses Cleveland in 1796. Bedford Township now is composed of two cities—Bedford and Maple Heights—and three villages—Bedford Heights, Oakwood and Walton Hills.

Bedford lies from 950 to 1,025 feet above sea level. Statistics show it has a male population of 49.73 per cent; native born, 89 per cent; mean annual temperature, 48.7; mean maximum temperature, 58.2; average annual snowfall, 41.4 inches; average annual rainfall, 33.82 inches and a growing season of 195 days.

There are 30 volunteer firemen who operate the four fire trucks equipped with two-way radio. Fourteen policemen are employed. Of the approximately 43 miles of streets, about 23 are paved. State routes 8 and 14 are in the vicinity.

Total cost of all city operations during 1954 was set at \$1,449,000. The town residents have the choice of two evening newspapers, one morning paper and one weekly paper.

The area also is served by three TV and six radio stations.

While the history of Bedford's private schools can be traced back to 1820, the earliest reliable public school history begins with the township schools in 1848 when the total enrollment was 662 children whose education cost about \$1 per year for each student. At present, the Bedford School District consists of five elementary buildings, a junior high school building and a senior high school building with a total enrollment of 3,625.

Bedford is proud of being one of the oldest communities in the area; of being a self-sufficient suburb and not dependent upon Cleveland; of being the birthplace of Archibald Willard and the home of Dr. Theodatus Garlick, famous scientist who was recognized by many authorities as being the first man to propagate fish artificially.

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP, COSHOCTON COUNTY, OHIO

Bedford Township lies in the western part of Coshocton County. The north eastern quarter of the township, according to old county records, is a military section which was surveyed into 100 acre lots in 1808 by William Cutbush. The remainder of the township is Congress land which was opened up for settlement with a survey into sections in 1803 by Silas Bent, Jr.

The township somewhat exceeds the requisite width of five miles, thus making the western tier of sections considerably larger than they should be. Some of the quarter sections here contain nearly 260 acres instead of the usual 160 acres.

This fact led to some unsuccessful litigation during pioneer days by several settlers against their adjacent, more fortunate neighbors who had secured "fat" quarters. Purpose of the suits was to compel a division of the surplus land.

The area which forms this township was a portion of Newcastle Township until 1825. At that time it was organized into a separate township by an act of the Coshocton County commissioners.

Following the action of the commissioners, the organiza-

tion was completed by the election of township officers with the election being held in the home of Henry Haines. Bedford Township elections continued to be held in the Haines residence for four or five years, but subsequently were transferred to West Bedford.

West Bedford and Tunnel Hill are the only two towns in Bedford Township.

Bedford Township received its name from the county in Pennsylvania. It was from Bedford County, Pennsylvania, that a considerable number of the township's pioneer families migrated. The Pennsylvania county furnished at least 15 to 18 of the earliest families here while others joined them later in this township as well as in other parts of the county.

Bedford Township, possibly due to its more or less hilly nature, never reached a very large population. The only early census record available showed a population of 920 in 1880. Later figures showed a gradual decrease to the 496 population figure of 1950.

The surface of Bedford Township is rolling. Timber always was abundant with the more common varieties being poplar, walnut, hickory and red and white oak. Chestnut also was fairly common until some 25 years ago when all trees were killed in the blight.

The township has always been supplied with an abundance of coal in the eastern half, while the western half has an abundance of limestone. Although it has a very hilly surface, Bedford Township has no surface rock of any mentionable amount. Only one outcropping of rock is worthy of note. This is Standing Rock.

The earliest settler in the township is said to be one Richard Shelton, who settled Military Lot 25. It is not known where he came from. The second settler, Ezra Horton, came from Cumberland Valley, Maryland, in 1809 or 1810.

Actual settlement of the township seems to date back to the coming of Henry Haines. He migrated to Licking County, Ohio, from Bedford County, Pennsylvania, in 1810. But after learning he would have to travel some 60 miles to Zanesville for

salt and to have his milling done, he decided to settle nearer to Zanesville.

He came to the area now comprising Bedford Township after being advised to do so by a Mr. Wolford.

Thus, in the spring of 1811, Haines settled in Bedford Township. For six months he lived in a three-sided cabin with one end entirely open. However, by fall he had the cabin nearly completed for the winter months.

He brought with him six cows which gave a large amount of milk for butter. He traded the butter for pigs and in the course of time he had a large drove of hogs and a herd of cattle. He took them to Zanesville and sold them to raise money to pay off the debt on his land.

John Wolford, also from Bedford, Pennsylvania, arrived in the area in the fall of 1811. Elias James was the next Bedford County pioneer to settle in Bedford Township. He obtained his land from a German immigrant who went "back east" after learning the Indians still might cause trouble.

Other early settlers from Bedford County, Pennsylvania, included John McKearns, Nathan Wright, Charles Cessna, Edward McCoy, William McCoy, Moses Wolford, William Richards, Jacob Rine, Henry Rine, Enoch Fry, Jacob Adams, Robert Elder, Samuel Rose and Micajah Heaton. Heaton later founded West Bedford.

Although the Indians often camped along the banks of streams nearby there apparently was no village site here. The redmen had already deserted this part of the state by the time settlers began arriving. Consequently there is very little local communication between Indians and whites.

One of the biggest troubles of early settlers was the wolves which caused quite an annoyance. Sheep, and other domestic animals, had to be kept in tight pens for their own safety.

Another matter of consequence was the heavy loss of crops caused by squirrels. Corn and wheat, especially, suffered from the enormous number of squirrels which made up the major part of the wild animal population in the forest area during those pioneer days.

Proof of the squirrel population is shown by the fact that while Bedford Township, with neighboring townships of Perry and Pike, still was a part of New Castle Township, a huge squirrel hunt was staged.

The entire section was divided into two areas in which settlers competed in efforts to eradicate the destructive little animals.

During the three weeks the hunt was held, it is said more than 20,000 squirrels were killed.

Two salt licks existed near the center of the township and these were favorite haunts of deer. Here, almost any evening, a patient hunter might get himself an abundant supply of venison. Many deer were killed at night when darkness hid the animal. The hunter, hearing the deer approach, could usually drop him in his tracks by firing at the sound of his footsteps.

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NEW BEDFORD, OHIO

This town's history dates back to August 24, 1816, when Jacob Blickensderfer laid out an 84-lot village and named it Wardsville. Although there is a large list of lot owners on record for the years 1818-1821 for Wardsville (and also for later years) there evidently were very few homes built here.

The newly-laid out town seems to have passed into oblivion early.

Today, no one remembers Wardsville and only those who delve into historical records have kept alive the first attempt to build a town in this region. With the increasing influx of immigrants into Ohio from 1815 to 1825, the need for little towns developed.

New Bedford was no exception.

There are no records available regarding the growth of Wardsville, but one emigrant who lived there laid out the village known now as New Bedford. John Gonser laid out the town in 1825 after arriving from Bedford County, Pennsylvania. It comprised 55 lots in the area which still was forest land and sparsely settled.

Records now in existence do not state what advantages New Bedford claimed over Wardsville. The location of Wardsville apparently was so much more desirable for a town site since it was on almost level ground. New Bedford's location was situated on the slope of a hill, facing southeast, near the top of a hill which makes a natural divide.

From the day New Bedford was laid out, it began to forge ahead of Wardsville.

To the observer today there seems to be no practical reason why this should happen to nine-year-old Wardsville except that New Bedford had a number of springs which furnished a water supply. These springs now have disappeared after years of intermittent droughts and cutting of the forests. The water supply for New Bedford has for the greater part of a century depended upon wells—first shallow wells and now deep wells.

The only other reason for the popularity of New Bed-

ford over Wardsville was because John Gonser was a "go-getter." History tells that he was quite laudable in his presentation of the advantages the future New Bedford held. His persuasive efforts were successful in wooing the settlers away from Wardsville and in a short time New Bedford began to flourish although it never grew to any great size.

In 1881, the population was 134. In 1954, it was about 120.

John Gonser had the help of three sons in selling New Bedford to the ever-increasing flow of new residents to Ohio. These sons—Henry, David and Adam—each built his own house in the new town.

Just when the Gonsers left Bedford County, Pennsylvania, for Ohio is not known definitely. However, a large number of immigrants did enter Ohio about 1815, immediately after the close of the War of 1812. It is assumed the Gonsers were among these new settlers who moved westward to find their fortunes.

Further proof of this is seen in the case of one Henry Gonser who was granted deeds from the U. S. Government, for two 80-acre tracts of land in German Township, located about three miles northeast of the New Bedford site. The deeds, dated 1815, apparently were for Henry Gonser, a brother of John Gonser.

The Gonsers, arriving from the area about the town of Bedford, Pennsylvania, named their pioneer village in Ohio after their native town and county in Pennsylvania.

In 1828, the first store was established by David Burgert. John Winkelpleck established another store in 1838. In 1881, there were three "groceries" later called saloons, operated by C. C. Hinkle, Jacob Roth and Jacob Welling.

While much early history of New Bedford is lost, it seems it took the new town about three years to get on its feet. It got a post office June 12, 1828, with David Burgert as postmaster.

Today mail service is handled on a rural free delivery route which passes through New Bedford, coming out of Baltic, Ohio. Before establishment of the rural route in 1904,

the New Bedford mail was brought in by a route operating between Millersburg and Baltic.

The region never was given to any manufacturing activities. This is due, possibly, to the fact that there is no stream large enough to provide water power for mills or other uses.

As one drives through the New Bedford area today and glances over the topography of both the Wardsville and New Bedford sites, it is clearly evident that both sites were too high in elevation to ever provide any water for mill-dam operations nearby.

There is no record of the very early school history in New Bedford. The first school on record was a one-room building built in 1877. Another room was added in 1880 and a two-room building has been maintained since then. A new two-room structure was built a few years ago.

A church building was erected in 1823, a quarter-mile west of the later town site of New Bedford by the joint congregations of German Reformed and Lutherans. This joint group had its beginning in 1820 at a farm home service several miles west of the present town site. The first pastor was Rev. William Reiter.

Services were held on alternate Sundays by each congregation. Each had its own pastor, but during periods when one congregation or other was without a spiritual leader, they shared the pastor available at the time.

Rev. Henry Colleredo, a Lutheran pastor, lived in the vicinity and was a circuit rider. Most of the time he walked

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as much as 20 miles for services, carrying a rifle as protection against wild animals.

The lack of adequate transportation also is another probable reason why New Bedford never attained any large size or population. The nearest railroad now is five miles to the east. However, state highways 643 and 651 join on the town square.

Today, New Bedford, Ohio, the namesake of Bedford, Pennsylvania, has two stores, two gas stations, blacksmith shop, harness shop, barber shop, post office, feed mill and feed store, two-room school, two churches and a cluster of homes.

During its entire period of existence, New Bedford has been surrounded by a farm population. In recent years, lands are being bought by farmers of the Amish sect.

WEST BEDFORD, OHIO

West Bedford is one of two villages in Bedford Township, Coshocton County, Ohio. The other is Tunnel Hill. Another early town, Zeno, failed to survive.

West Bedford was named for Bedford County, Pennsylvania, by its founder, Micajah Heaton, who migrated from the Pennsylvania hills. West Bedford was laid out September 13, 1817.

It is situated in the west central part of Bedford Township, and for a long time was known as "Heaton's Town." But since Heaton, and many of his neighbors, came from Bedford County, Pennsylvania, they decided to name it West Bedford, mainly because they came west to find a new home and because the town is located in the western half of the township.

Heaton had arrived in Bedford Township about a year before he laid out the town. He erected a cabin in which he also maintained a tavern. Travel through the area was very light and he had to rely upon the sale of whiskey for income. He later was appointed first postmaster of the village when it was granted a post office.

To promote the growth of West Bedford, Heaton offered

a town lot to the first person who would erect the first house in the prospective village. Enoch Fry and Samuel Waters competed for the prize, but history fails to record who won.

West Bedford was the scene of considerable manufacturing in its earlier days. About 1840, a threshing machine factory was started. The business later passed into new hands and the factory was abandoned in the middle 1850s. About 1862, John Shields began making revolving hay rakes. The first year he made about 50 rakes but the number decreased each year after, even though the business continued for a number of years.

In 1858, George Moore erected a large steam saw and grist mill just west of the town. In 1863, Patrick Thompson purchased the property and carried on the sawing of lumber and grinding of grain far into the 1880s.

The first school in West Bedford was held in a little log cabin about 1822. Schools were maintained with some regularity from that time on, but during the early years, terms lasted only three months.

The West Bedford Academy was organized about 1846. It quickly grew into an educational institution of note. After a prosperous career of four or five years, it was destroyed by fire. The school quickly was transferred to temporary quarters in the Methodist Church and the energetic citizens proceeded to build another school at once for about \$1,200. The money for the second school, as well as for the first, had been raised by a stock subscription. After a flourishing career, the academy faded out as civilization moved westward. The building was converted into a village school and existed for many years.

Population of West Bedford in 1880 was 134. Since that time the town population has decreased with the township. The 1950 census, which gives township population as 496, does not list the village separately, but population is near the 50 mark.

BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

Some time ago, a young writer rolled up his shirt sleeves, grabbed some paper and pencils and set to work probing into the background of Bedford, Pennsylvania. He had in mind the idea of writing a "short historical sketch" of the town for the magazine supplement of a Sunday newspaper. After delving into dusty old records and well-thumbed reference books, he told a friend that the magazine story had grown larger and larger until it turned into a novel. The writer sounded slightly dazed as he said:

"Why there's enough history in this town to fill a whole batch of books."

If you were a resident of Bedford, that probably would come as no surprise to you. The county seat town of Bedford County practically oozes history at every street corner, where, in many cases you can see some sort of remembrance of a famous event in history. The inhabitants join in this historical parade by displaying plaques on their homes and business places commemorating the year the house was built or the business established. Many of the larger homes, now converted into apartments and rooming houses, date from the early 1800s.

With the signs and traces of history staring them in the face, it is perhaps just natural for the townspeople to have a soft spot in their hearts for the traditional things of life.

For instance, Bedford is one community which still clings to the custom of ringing the old court bell. Ten minutes or so before trials are to be heard, an attendant steps into the courtroom entranceway and pulls mightily on a stout rope which disappears through a hole in the ceiling. Slowly and solemnly, you hear the bell toll, giving notice that court is just about ready to begin.

Another example is the old hand-wound clock in the courthouse tower. While most towns have switched to the modern electric models, Bedford is content and happy to stay on time with the clock it purchased in 1876 for \$250. Twice each week, the clock winder trudges up a narrow circular flight of stairs to tend his timepiece and to draw up the two immense



Aerial view of Bedford, Pa.

—Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

pieces of stone which weight the clock. The modulated boom of the old clock bell seems to become a familiar friend after you have lived in the community for awhile.

The clock crowns the magnificent old courthouse which was built in 1828. It presents a trim appearance and courthouse workers strive to keep it neat and pleasant. Even the venetian blinds are kept at the same level on all windows and the blinds are pulled closed at the end of the day. The well-kept building with its colonial red brick beauty is one of the special prides of the town.

Inside, when work is slow, the county office holders sometimes visit in each other's office. The gatherings are reminiscent of the old-fashioned cracker-barrel discussion of half-a-century ago. Everyone says his piece and the subjects range all the way from the chances of the Yankees winning another pennant to the pension plan for county workers.

The tempo of life is easy going in Bedford. Law offices, the courthouse and banks close at noon Wednesdays and Saturdays. Some stores close up shop Wednesday afternoons, too. Any excuse is used to close down. One courthouse worker jokingly said, "We close on any day that is marked red on the calendar, and sometimes when it's not, too."

Quiet throughout the week, Bedford yawns, stretches, and really lets go on Saturdays when the rural population leaves the farms and invades the town's stores and markets. Most of the country people come from the rich dairy farms that make up one of the biggest industries in the county. The town itself has only a few industrial businesses and labor strife is virtually unknown.

Lately, beef cattle has been replacing dairy cattle to some extent while some of the suburban area also is being taken over by the huge trucking centers brought here by the nearby Pennsylvania Turnpike.

But even with the unaccustomed crowds in the town on Saturdays, the hustle and bustle is on a dignified basis. There are few disturbances of any sort. Most farm families, done with the week's grocery shopping, stow the food in their cars and slip into a movie. Or they just ramble around the town

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looking at the displays in store windows. Some stop for a moment and relax on old stone benches in one of the three parks on the town square. Others jam sidewalks while discussing farm problems with their neighbors.

One of the favorite past times of Bedfordites is attending auction sales where you can buy most anything from a horse to a thimble. While these sales are popular at all times, they take on an added zest during summer months when an auctioneer sets up his stand under a tree behind the courthouse. The visiting farmers bring all their unwanted articles to him for sale and they usually stop long enough to buy a few more things that have been put up for sale by someone else.

At these sales, or on the streets, you notice that faces of the townspeople are marked with a sort of self-satisfied expression that rarely is seen elsewhere. Perhaps their composed features only mirror the peace and calm of the countryside. Or maybe it's pride in being owners of lands and businesses that give a nice financial return. An "I-have-enough-money-to-live-comfortably" look is seen especially in the faces of elderly people. This might be due to the many former vacation visitors to Bedford who move into the community area to live after they have retired from active business life.

Bedford long has been known as a resort town that has many of the advantages of the big city, but which still retains the flavor and quiet peace found only in the smaller town. Despite its size, it makes a boast that it could put its entire population to bed in its hotels, motels and rooming houses.

Several years ago, when a storm of blinding snow literally paralyzed all highway travel, Bedford demonstrated its readiness and ability to care for the traveler.

Hundreds of transients, out in the cold after being trapped in the huge snow drifts, found a warm and welcome haven in Bedford's tourist accommodations. Most any other town of the same size would have been unable to handle the unexpected crowds of room seekers, but Bedford, molded by and for the traveler for the past two centuries, took it all in stride.

Midway between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, on the 40th parallel, the town has been building its name as a friendly host

to travelers since early Colonial days. Its warm hospitality is a beacon light to the weary motorist who finds Bedford snug-gled serene and peaceful in the green foothills of the Allegheny Mountains. For 200 years its health-giving climate and the curative waters of its famous springs have made it a welcome stopping place.

The town has a delightful climate that combines with gorgeous mountain sights to give a tremendous appeal to its historical background.

Presidents and pioneers, diplomats and soldiers, Indian traders and just plain people—all stopped here. Government officials still visit Bedford's resort hotels, but the traders and westbound settlers have departed with bygone days. Gone, too, are the red-coated British soldiers who built its fort and the staunch volunteers of America's first army who later brought independence to the colonies.

In their place come thousands of tourists each year to relax in the town and then leave refreshed to join the legions of others who sing Bedford's praises. They marvel at the zesty, invigorating air with cool nights and comfortable warm days. Because it is 1,108 feet above sea level and hemmed in by majestic mountains, Bedford escapes much of the wintry weather that makes other nearby counties pretty rugged at times. The absence of snow and ice during most of the winter caused one neighboring town's newspaper to dub Bedford the "Palm Springs of the North."

One major factor for Bedford's popularity as a resort area has been its location right smack dab on the main streets of America. Many who return here each year first found Bedford 'by accident' because of its central location. A well-defined crossroads of the East, known and used by the Indians, Bedford now is coming into its full glory through modern road-building miracles and the automobile.

Bedford County became the first great trading center of Western Pennsylvania back in 1689 because of the Algonquian-Lenape Indian trail which crosses it. This Indian roadway was the first highway from the East to be used by the white man

who moved westward into the rich trading theater between the Monongahela and Ohio Rivers.

Many relics of this Indian traffic are uncovered from time to time by farmers plowing their fields or by local collectors who dig patiently for the arrowheads and other pieces of "Indian treasure."

At the crossroads of U. S. Route 30 (the Lincoln Highway) and U. S. Route 220 (the Horseshoe Trail), Bedford also is extremely fortunate to be only a few minutes away from the midway point of that modern miracle of highway building—the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Other state and local roads link Bedford with the main travel arteries that stretch across the country.

Many of these roads in the county are on high ground and formerly were Indian trails or the thoroughfares of the early traders.

When Bedford was pushed into the national spotlight by becoming the midway point of the superhighway in 1940, some residents feared its resort days were numbered. They were afraid the high-speed road would carry trade right past Bedford, even though an outlet is located only two miles from the center of town.

But others, thinking of the 200 years during which highways made history—and money—for Bedford because it is a natural stopping place, thought differently and correctly. The road brought more and more people to the community. In the decade or so since the highway was built, Bedford retail sales have increased by leaps and bounds and its commercial growth has been equally amazing.

In fact, the town has grown so much that it now is suffering "growing pains." There isn't enough water; there aren't enough houses and there's too much traffic for the streets.

But "hard-headed" businessmen, who have watched the town grow since it became the center of the Pennsylvania Turnpike, predict still bigger things for the community. They claim the eastern and western extensions of the road will mean more business for the town. The unchangeable laws of time

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and distance allow Bedford to remain nestled in its green foothills as the midway point of the new and longer Turnpike.

Prophets foresee another splurge in the community's life which will rival the business increase of the past decade. Where once it dreaded the dream highway, Bedford now seeks and receives comfort in the knowledge it will stay at the center of the four-lane, high-speed 327-mile concrete ribbon that ties the densely-populated Atlantic Seaboard with the thriving industrial cities of the interior.

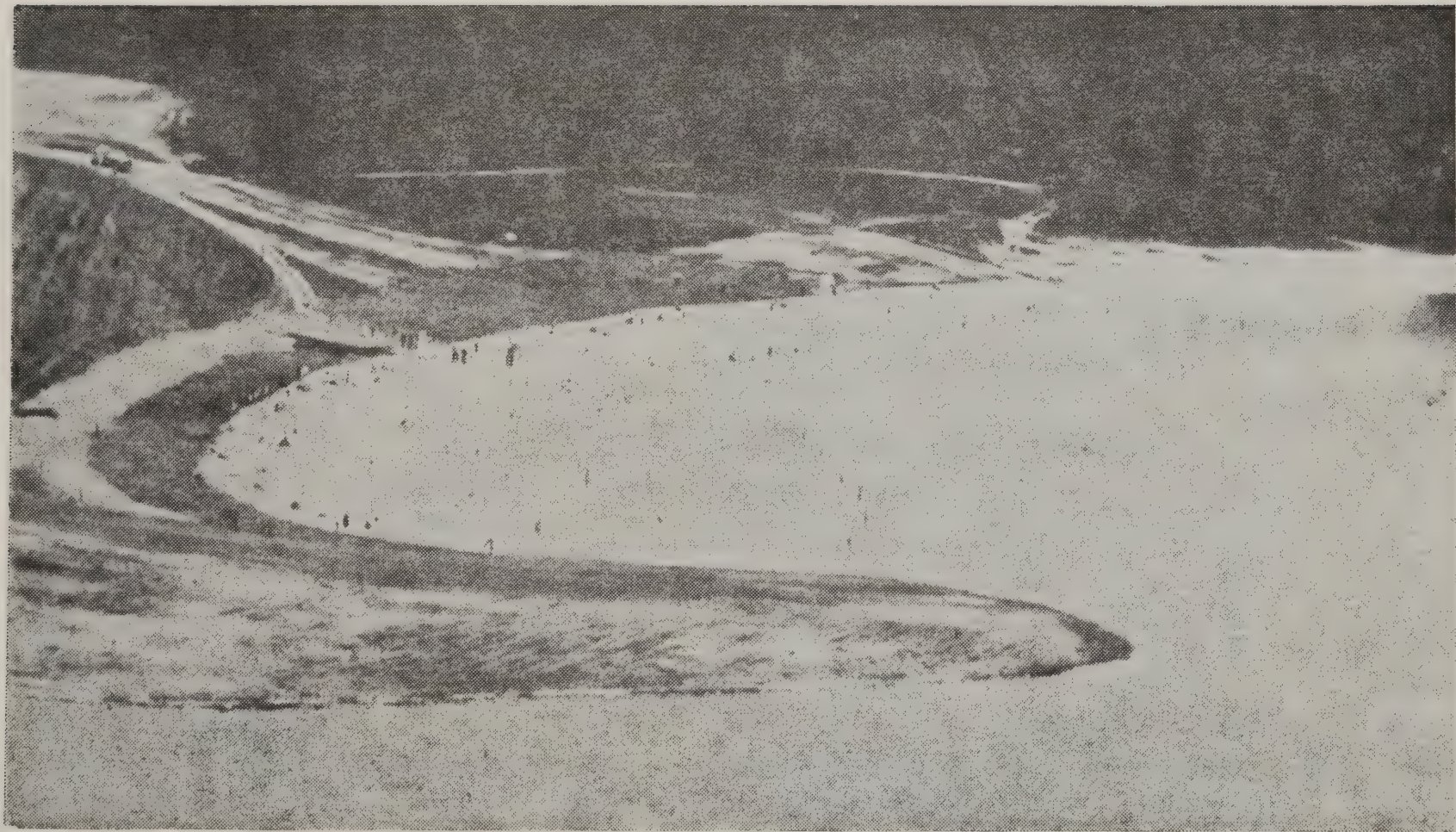
With the Pennsylvania Turnpike's "middle" just a few miles from the center of Bedford, some residents look for more and more trucking companies to establish terminals and relay points here. Some even have predicted Bedford will become one of the major trucking areas in the United States.

Because of this easy accessibility, thousands of tourists find pleasure in the numberless points of scenic beauty and historical interest, linger at the shrines of the past or discover new life in the sports and recreations of today. Delighted with the many big city features in the serenity and peacefulness of the smaller town, they have stayed longer than they originally planned. And when they do leave, they already are making plans for a return visit.

Despite being a travelers' paradise, Bedford does not have that beaten-up, tired look so common with other resort towns.

Just before his death, author Hervey Allen, who became famous with "Anthony Adverse" and then immortalized the town in his "Bedford Village", warned residents not to gaudy up the town with too much knick-knack neon signs. A boyhood visitor to Bedford and later an off-and-on dweller, Allen wrote the town newspaper, *The Gazette*:

"Why should we cheapen and spoil the town and its neighborhood with a rash of neon signs—Dew Drop Inns, small shot Bar-B-Qs and Mom's Motels—the same kind of sorry motor slum that everybody is sadly familiar with, from coast to coast. In which case, the tourist who might linger, and who is looking for something different, will hurry on—hurry on to some place that has a little more civic pride and perhaps some imagination."



—Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

Aerial view of Shawnee State Park, near Bedford, Pa.

With or without the neon lights, however, some of the most magnificent mountain views in the eastern part of the nation are found within 20 miles of Bedford. Coupled with this are the pleasant sideroads through picturesque coves and valleys that abound with historical interest—as well as with wild game.

Perhaps the greatest single tourist attraction for the town is the world-famous Bedford Springs Hotel, home of the springs with the celebrated restorative waters. The hotel's management calls it the "Carlsbad of America", a name it has used for many years.

The springs, noted for their unexcelled medicinal properties, are located on the 2,800 acre estate of the hotel, little more than a mile south of Bedford. Most important in this group are the magnesia springs from where water is shipped over the world.

Here, too, you are able to drink from the limestone, sulphur, iron and sweetwater springs. An overhead walkway crosses Route 220 from the lawn of the hotel to the marble-railed colonade that houses the magic waters.

East of Bedford are the Chalybeate springs of sweetwater, iron and limestone. Several years ago, the skeleton of a prehistoric animal was found in the bog iron ore here while workmen were digging out the springs.

South of Bedford, beyond the town of Manns Choice, there is another group known as the sulphur springs.

Although the Bedford springs are a big drawing card for the area, no one can say for sure just how or when they and their medicinal qualities were first noticed. You will get two explanations, depending on the book you read or the person to whom you talk.

One story involved old Nicholas Schouffler who was said to be slightly queer, according to his neighbors. This version of the story has Nicholas finding the springs in 1796 while he was searching for gold. An old history book of the times says Nicholas was a monomaniac on the subject of gold and that he spent all his time in the hills looking for it.

One day he came to the stream called Shover's Run. Here

water from the springs had trickled for centuries over stones and rocks and had left a yellow sediment. When old Nicholas saw that, he thought it was gold and raised such a howl that an investigation was made. The old history book says Nicholas didn't find gold but "that which has the power of attraction equal to a magnet"—the curative waters that are possibly the next best thing to the elusive Fountain of Youth.

The second explanation says the springs were found in 1804 by a "mechanic of Bedford" while he was fishing in Shover's Run. It seems he was smitten by the beauty and singularity of the waters where they flowed down a bank and he "drank freely of them." A sufferer of rheumatic pains and ulcers of the legs, the man first noticed the magical qualities of the water that night when he slept more peacefully than usual. He returned to the springs and again drank. This time he also bathed there.

The historian then goes on to say that "in a few weeks he was entirely cured." This happy effect the water had on him led others to the springs. Soon the valley was dotted with

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tents put up by sufferers of various ailments who had come for cure. It was about this time that the townspeople showed a willingness to attract and serve travelers. They pitched in and cleared away a dense tangle of bushes and trees which had made it difficult to reach the source of the waters.

Oddly enough, no mention ever has been found that the Indians who roamed this area knew of the medicinal waters.

The land on which the springs were found belonged to Frederick Nawgle, Sr., a settler who in 1797 built a mill that still vexes some motorists. The mill juts out onto Route 220 and causes the road to make a sharp turn just north of the Bedford Springs Hotel. This area south of Bedford, along Route 220, is known locally as Bedford Valley.

Near the hotel and east of the limestone spring, was the cave of Davey Lewis, "the Robin Hood Bandit." The cave, now fallen in, but once high enough to allow a man to ride a horse into its entrance, was used as a hideout by the robber during the 19th Century. Davey is supposed to have made it a custom to rob the rich and then leave the booty at the home of the poor.

Lewis first became known in 1815 when he was arrested for passing counterfeit coins. In 1819 he escaped from jail after cutting through a solid oak floor and digging under the walls. He also released all other prisoners except one whom he said "was a common fellow who had robbed a poor widow." Within a few hours after the jailbreak, Lewis had robbed a merchant of \$1,800 and then disguised himself and helped "persue" the bandit.

The beauties of the county's hills and valleys probably were seen for the first time by the white man in 1625 when Thomas Powell led an expedition northward from Jamestown, Virginia. He is believed to have come within a few miles of the town's present site before he turned back. Indians were contacted near the present town of Chaneyville. Powell said "here there were lots of Indians, they showed us all the friendship they could."

Bedford was settled in 1751; the fort was erected in 1758; the town was laid out in 1766 and it was incorporated in 1795.

GREETINGS FROM
BEDFORD BOROUGH, PA.
TO
ALL BEDFORDS EVERYWHERE

WE EXTEND TO YOU
A CORDIAL INVITATION
TO VISIT OUR
TOWN AND ENJOY YOURSELF
AMID HEALTHFUL CLIMATE
THAT LETS YOU RELAX TO
YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

The first term of court was held here on Tuesday, April 6, 1771. Six justices of the king presided with the first business being division of the county into townships.

In those days the pillory and whipping post were commonly used for punishment. One of the most unusual accounts can be found in old court minutes. They state the prisoner should be "taken to the public whipping post between the hours of 8 and 10, to receive 39 lashes well laid on his bare back; immediately thereafter to be placed in the pillory for one hour, have his ears cut off and nailed to the post" and to forfeit to the Commonwealth 15 pounds.

Only one person, James Rice, has been executed for a crime under county law. He was hanged September 2, 1842, for the murder of a trader the previous year on Ray's Hill.

Tradition also tells of the hanging, under military law, of a German soldier-tailor here in 1760. The story says he was hanged from a locust tree at the present site of Richard and John Streets. The German, it is said, nonchalantly sat on his coffin in a cart, puffing his pipe. When the cart was driven from under him, the rope broke and he fell to the ground cursing the awkwardness which had broken his pipe.

This part of "Penn's Woods" was purchased from the Six Nations of Indians in 1754 and 1768 by William Penn. It was named in honor of the Duke of Bedford. Many of the streets in Bedford are named after the Penn family.

Just when the area was settled is uncertain.

Although the first white men passed through The Narrows (river crossing) east of Bedford early in the 1700s, it was not until about 1750 that Robert Ray built his trading post here. Some historians argue his name was Rae or McCrae. However, the first settlement of Raystown and the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River, on which the town was built, get their names from him. Other sources claim the area was settled in 1710 when John Dibert, a French Huguenot, settled in Dutch Corner about nine miles north of present-day Bedford. Although he was held in high esteem by the Shawnee nation of Indians who peopled the vicinity, his settlement of Ft. Wigan was wiped out in 1732 when jealous traders goaded the rene-

gade Delaware Indians to slaughter most of his family. Many residents of Bedford and neighboring counties are direct descendants of Dibert.

Bedford Township, residential and farming area which completely surrounds Bedford Borough, derived its name from Ft. Bedford. It was formed as a division of Cumberland County as early as 1768. The original limits were very extensive. In fact, Frankstown Township, Blair County, once was part of Bedford Township.

Because of the destruction by fire of the Cumberland County Courthouse in 1841, many old and valuable records were lost. With them, too, was lost all knowledge of the original extent and date of erection of Bedford Township.

As to who the first settler was within the limits of the present township, where he settled and from where he came, there is no evidence. However, it appears that Andrew Glass had improved a farm three miles north of Bedford about 1761.

When Bedford County was formed in 1771, Bedford Township extended north into the present county of Blair, probably to the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River, with Tussey Mountain as its eastern and the Alleghenies as its western boundaries.

The town of Bedford probably attracted its first tourist trade about 1752 when Garrett Pendergrass (or Pendergast) purchased a large tract of land from the Indians. The deed to the land still can be viewed at the courthouse.

This deed can be seen on Page 58 of Book A and is dated February, 1770. The paper is brown with age and crackles to the touch. The writing itself is quaint, but nevertheless legible. Because it has been viewed by so many persons, the deed now has been enclosed in a plastic covering.

The mark of Chief Anonguit is a turtle; Enishshera, or Capt. Henry Mountare's name, is followed by letters H. M., while a circle within a circle marks the signature of Connehra-cahecat, the White Mingo. The date of recording is set as September 17, 1772.

Later, Pendergrass gave to his son, Garrett Jr., "the land on both sides of the Raystown containing 300 acres." Pender-

grass didn't stay in the Bedford area long, however. His daughter, Gerty,, was scalped and killed by Indians in 1757 near Ft. Lyttleton.

Among other early taverns built in the Bedford area was that of Lt. John and Jean Frazer which was located on North Richard Street near the site of the present north wing of the Graystone Hotel. Here in 1759 was born John Frazer, the first white child born within the present limits of the county.

The Pendergrass tavern became one of the favorite stopping places on the road from the East to the vast West. For some reason though, old Pendergrass stayed here for only a short time. He was gone when British troops arrived in Bedford about 1758 to regroup at its fort before moving against the French at Ft. Duquesne, later to become Pittsburgh.

Bedford and its fort played an important part in British efforts to oust the French from the Ohio Valley and helped throw North America's destiny with the Anglo-Saxon form of civilization instead of with the French. A big measure of the British success in the French and Indian War is given to the road which was laid through Bedford in 1758. Primarily a military venture, the road opened the West to trade and civilization. It was the forerunner of the present coast-to-coast Route 30, the Lincoln Highway.

This road was colonial Pennsylvania's contribution to Britain's supremacy over the vast western section beyond the Appalachian Mountains. Because of this pioneer highway, Ft. Bedford became the military and economic center of Western Pennsylvania.

Apparently there were few white settlers in the area from the time of Pendergrass until Gen. Forbes erected the fort in 1758. As taverns were built, the town soon became a stopping place for traders. The fort was situated on the site now bounded roughly by Richard, Penn and Juliana Streets near the river.

Today, homes and business places cover the area where Ft. Bedford once stood as a bulwark against sudden attacks of the marauding Indians. Not much is left of the once-proud structure. About the only things you can still see are the

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NEW HOFFMAN HOTEL

IN DOWNTOWN BEDFORD

traces of a spring where the British redcoats got their water and an old flag which may or may not be the one which flew over the fort.

This flag, now preserved by the Bedford County Pioneer Historical Society, is said to have been given to Gen. John Stanwix, fort commander, in 1759 by the Duke of Bedford. It was at the time the name of the town was changed from Ft. Raystown to Ft. Bedford.

The fort had five bastions and places for swivel guns. In order to get water in event of an attack, a gallery with loop holes extended from the central bastion on the north front to the river's edge. On the south side was the main gate. A smaller gate was on the west side and a postern on the north. The fort was protected by an eight foot deep moat which was 10 feet wide at the bottom and 15 feet at the top.

The fort had become dilapidated by 1771 when the county was taken from Cumberland County, but for many years settlers still came here for protection during Indian uprisings.

The fort was not a very strong one.

Proof that it wasn't heavily armed is given by Col. James Smith, a colorful figure of the times. He and 18 companions once took it from the British. That was in 1769 when Smith released several men who had been jailed by the redcoats. Years later, after he had returned the fort to the British, long before the Revolutionary War, Smith wrote: "This, I believe, was the first British fort in America that was taken by what they now call American rebels."

It was only a few years earlier that George Washington, that famous American traveler, visited Bedford as a colonel with the British. While serving with Gen. John Forbes, he helped run the French from the Ohio Valley. Again in 1794, while on his way to quell the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania, Washington stopped in Bedford. The actual site of his headquarters—the Espy house—still is standing in the heart of Bedford's business district where it now houses a bakery. Washington's second visit here was the first time the new federal army of the United States was assembled. The occasion also was the first and only time that America's army

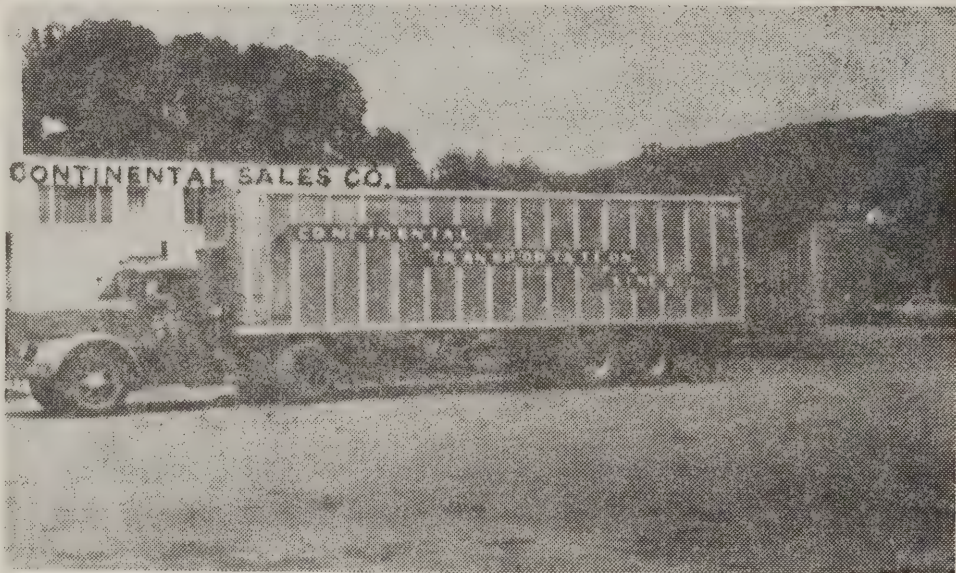
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BEDFORD, PA.

"BEST OF ALL THE BEDFORDS"

was commanded in the field personally by the commander-in-chief, the President of the United States.

However, some area historians say it was not the federal army that was called during the Whiskey Rebellion, but the militia of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, totaling about 15,000 troops. It is pointed out by these historians that the federal army, more properly called the Legion of the United States at this time, was engaged in a campaign against the Indians in the Northwest Territory.

In addition to Washington, three other chief executives of the nation have found Bedford a fine stopping place—James K. Polk, Andrew Jackson and James Buchanan. Other famous men who stopped here during the early days of the U. S. were Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, “Mad Anthony” Wayne, Aaron Burr, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun and John Brown.

Bedford became a social center for the new country because of these leaders and their activities which included grand balls, banquets and, of course, political parleys.

President Buchanan stopped at Bedford Springs Hotel so many times he kept a special desk there and it was considered as his summer White House. It was here that Buchanan received the first message sent over the Atlantic Cable.

Buchanan was an annual visitor at Bedford Springs Hotel for 16 years before being elected president. He also came here while serving in the nation’s top post and after serving in the Chief Executive position.

On August 17, 1858, while at the hotel, Buchanan received the first message over the Atlantic Cable. The exchange of messages with Queen Victoria of England was as follows:

“London, England. Come let us talk together. American genius and English enterprise have this day joined together the OLD and the NEW world. Let us hope that they may be as closely allied in bonds of peace, harmony and kindred feeling. Victoria, R.”

“Bedford Springs. NEW England accepts with gladness the hand of fellowship proffered by OLD England and if ever discord or diversity of interest should threaten this alliance let

our language be 'entreat me not to leave thee or return from following after thee for the interests of thy people shall be the interests of my people and thy God shall be my God'. James Buchanan, President, U. S. A."

"Valentia, Ireland, via Trinity Bay, N. F. To the Honorable President of the United States, August 18:

"The Queen desires to congratulate the President upon the successful issue of this great international undertaking, in which the Queen has taken the deepest interest. The Queen is convinced the President will join her in fervently hoping that the electric cable which now connects Great Britain with the United States will prove an additional link between nations whose friendship is founded upon common interest and reciprocal esteem. The Queen has much pleasure in thus communicating with the President and renewing to him her wishes for the prosperity of the United States. Victoria, R."

After some 40 messages had been sent in three days, the cable parted. It was not until July 27, 1866, that a new one was completed.

The hotel also was the site on August 11, 1855, for a session of the U. S. Supreme Court. After fleeing the heat of Washington, the jurists found it very comfortable to debate their case on the wide veranda of the hotel.

The atmosphere of this glorious past was jolted rudely shortly after the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941.

The navy established a radio training school in the hotel. The hallowed halls, once trod by the feet of great statesmen, now echoed the joyous shouts of exuberant youth. Here more than 7,000 sailors studied before the "mountain navy" was decommissioned in 1945. The hotel also for a time housed Japanese diplomats who were caught away from their home country by the suddenness of war. The luxury of their prison camp caused much comment at the time.

With a population of slightly more than 4,000, Bedford has many metropolitan features in addition to its fine hotels. There are excellent restaurants, schools and garages; two theaters, a modern \$1,000,000 hospital; public library, churches and well-stocked stores. Hotel and convention accommoda-

tions meet the highest standards and are adequate for many large groups that wish to avoid the large cities without sacrificing the "big city conveniences."

Athletic fields, parks and golf courses are ready for vacationists. There are quiet walks down woodland trails and the thrill of trout fishing in clear mountain streams.

Bedfordites are mighty pleased with the many attractions within a few minutes' drive of the town.

At Schellsburg, to the west, you might enjoy a meal on the "deck" of a life-size replica of a sailing ship built on the brow of Allegheny Mountain. From its decks you can see below you seven counties and the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. In the same area, you will be able to visit the grave of John Frazer, Jr., the first white child born in Bedford County. Here, also, is the multi-million dollar Shawnee flood control and recreation area built by the state. More than 1,000,000 people visit the park each year.

Close at hand, in Manns Choice, is Wonderland Caverns which geologists say is the only known coral reef cavern in existence. One of the most modern plants for the propagation of fish is seen at Reynoldsdale State Fish Hatchery, north of Bedford. Thousands upon thousands of fish are grown here for stocking state streams. Incidentally, the fisherman will find his heart's dream come true in the area. Some of the largest fish ever taken in Pennsylvania were caught in the vicinity.

Near the fish hatchery is Pleasantville, famed in Civil War days as a station for runaway slaves. Nearby also is Bill's Place, a tiny settlement with the smallest post office in the world.

Bill's Place probably is the smallest of all small post offices. It measures 4 feet 11 inches by 7 feet 2 inches and serves a family of four. The post office gets its name from the popular stopping place along Route 30. So many people bought postcards they wanted to mail that a post office was established here in June, 1935.

At the foot of Blue Knob Mountain, near Pavia, is a monument to "The Lost Children of the Alleghenies," who wan-



Greetings . . .

and congratulations to you Robert G. Rice for making possible this unique introduction of all the good people in all the Bedfords known to you.

All of us here at The Fort Bedford Inn in our wonderful little town of Bedford, Pennsylvania, take this means of extending sincere welcome to any new found friends to visit us at The Inn. We shall diligently try to exemplify the spirit of hospitality that has existed since the days of Hervey Allen's immortal "Bedford Village."

The Fort Bedford Inn

EDMUND L. FLYNN,
President

dered from their home and perished in the mountainous wilds. The hunt for them aroused national attention. Their bodies were found under a tree which had been described in a dream of one of the searchers.

The county has scenic beauty in its 40 miles from north to south and 25 miles from east to west which is unsurpassed anywhere else in the region. Its mountains are well-timbered and abound in game for the hunter and fish for the follower of Izaak Walton. Its valleys are fertile and productive. The highest point in the county is Blue Knob—3,165 feet.

Bedford is a "clubby town". There are the Elks, Moose, Lions, Rotary, Masons, VFW, Legion and many others. One of the most colorful, perhaps, was the Morrisons Cove Bachelors' Club, now defunct. Telling of one meeting, the town newspaper said:

" . . . seventeen jolly bachelors surrounded the dining table. There also was one black sheep in the flock, an ex-bachelor who had broken his oath and taken unto himself a wife. It must be said for him, however, that he was thoroughly ashamed of himself and made no attempt to defend his treacherous conduct.

" . . . then attention was directed to the grand bounce for the fallen member. The wretched man was led to the door and hurled into the outer darkness with a parting salutation from 17 large and indignant feet."

With various joint districts now working successfully, many school buildings are being revamped and new ones are being constructed. Bedford County now has promise of one of the best and most modern school set-ups in the country.

Indians and buckskin-clad frontiersmen probably still roamed the trails of Bedford County when the first schools were established here. No date could be found for the first school, but local historians say it is possible private schools were opened shortly after the British built their fort here in the middle 1700s.

First school of which account can be found was one taught by Thomas Nixon in 1790 in Hopewell Township.

The early schools and their teachers had many difficulties

to overcome, including the general apathy and sometimes downright hostility of the public. In 1862, County School Superintendent George Sigafoos wrote that during the past year "four (school) houses in the county (were) destroyed by fire—three burned accidentally, or perhaps carelessly, and one maliciously."

With the excellent school facilities available in the county today, it is hard to visualize the hardships of those early days. For instance, in 1863, Sigafoos wrote:

"Of the 175 houses in the county, 50 are wholly unfit for school purposes, both houses and furniture being injurious to health of teachers and pupils."

In 1857 the houses were described as receiving very much fresh air, because of holes in the wall and from broken windows. The schools in many cases were described as "low, gloomy, damp and dismal hovels, with floors sunken to the ground, fit only to breed pestilence. Some of them are propped up, both outside and inside—outside to keep them from falling; inside to keep the floor DOWN and the ceiling UP."

In 1820, it was so cold in one school building that ink froze on the pen point while students were writing. Rats were almost constant attendants at class sessions. Perhaps that is why stern discipline was the order of the day.

When George Moreland was teacher in Hopewell Township School in 1820, students who broke the rules were liable to wind up with a bullet wound. Old records say Moreland, who certainly was eccentric, was noted for carrying his gun and a fiddle to school each day. He kept order in his classes by threatening to shoot his students if they misbehaved.

It is not known what he did with the fiddle.

Ten years later, in Broad Top Township, students had no worries about gun shots, but did keep a wary eye out for the whip wielded by teacher James Frazier. He had 40 rules for the government of his school and the number of rule denoted the number of lashes to be received by the violator. Thus for Rule 40, against stealing, the violator would receive 40 lashes.

The first pride and joy of the community, perhaps, is its fire hall and borough building. The structure originally

would have cost about \$100,000, but because nearly everybody pitched in and worked, and much of the labor and some of the material were donated, the building was put up for \$65,000.

Located on a quiet street, the building becomes the center of an orderly confusion when the fire siren blows. No matter what time of day or night, the siren is a signal for cars to come speeding from nowhere, screech to halt and disgorge running men at the hall.

Bedford Fire Department can be considered one of the oldest fire companies in Pennsylvania. The historical records of the volunteer unit are not fully established, but the company was started back in the early 1800s.

The borough officials, realizing the town was growing and in constant danger of fire, authorized the chief burgess on May 18, 1833, to ascertain expense of a fire engine and other apparatus as well as to make plans for construction of a fire house. The first engine was purchased in the summer of 1833.

On the first Monday of each month, the councilmen assemble in one wing of the borough building to deliberate on community affairs. Their biggest problem is, of course, helping the town to overcome its growing pains.

One of these problems came to town soon after the turnpike arrived. Where once the Conestoga wagons rumbled over the roads, there now rolls the sleek and heavy trailer trucks that have made the Bedford area their headquarters.

Council is given many complaints about the noise the vehicles make. Some lay the blame for the pitted and rutted streets at the truckers' doorstep. But many others understand that the trucks mean a lot of employment for the area and are hoping there will be more, not less, trucks.

But traffic in general, especially on Saturdays, and the limited water supply are the major headaches at present for the town fathers.

Council's business is conducted on a surprisingly informal basis. At the beginning of a session, the town's friendly nature is shown by the council president as he turns to a waiting complainant and asks: "Well, George, what can we do for you?"

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No use you waiting any longer than you have to.”

The councilmen serve without pay. They frequently kid each other about their huge salaries and ask if it's time for an increase.

Income of the area residents may be boosted one of these days if commercial quantities of natural gas are found. Several wildcat wells already have been drilled and show some promise.

But the tourist business, long Bedford's mainstay, continues to bring revenue to the town. While many other nearby areas were hit in 1954 by a slight recession, Bedford's hotels and motels continued to show the “Sorry—no vacancy” signs.

In an issue of the Saturday Evening Post some time ago, George Sessions Perry, writing the story of Bangor, Maine, and its beautiful Penobscot River, said:

“Today's visitor (to Bangor) is likely to find himself thinking in some variance of the old saying ‘See Naples and die’.

“He's more apt to feel, ‘See the Penobscot and live’.”

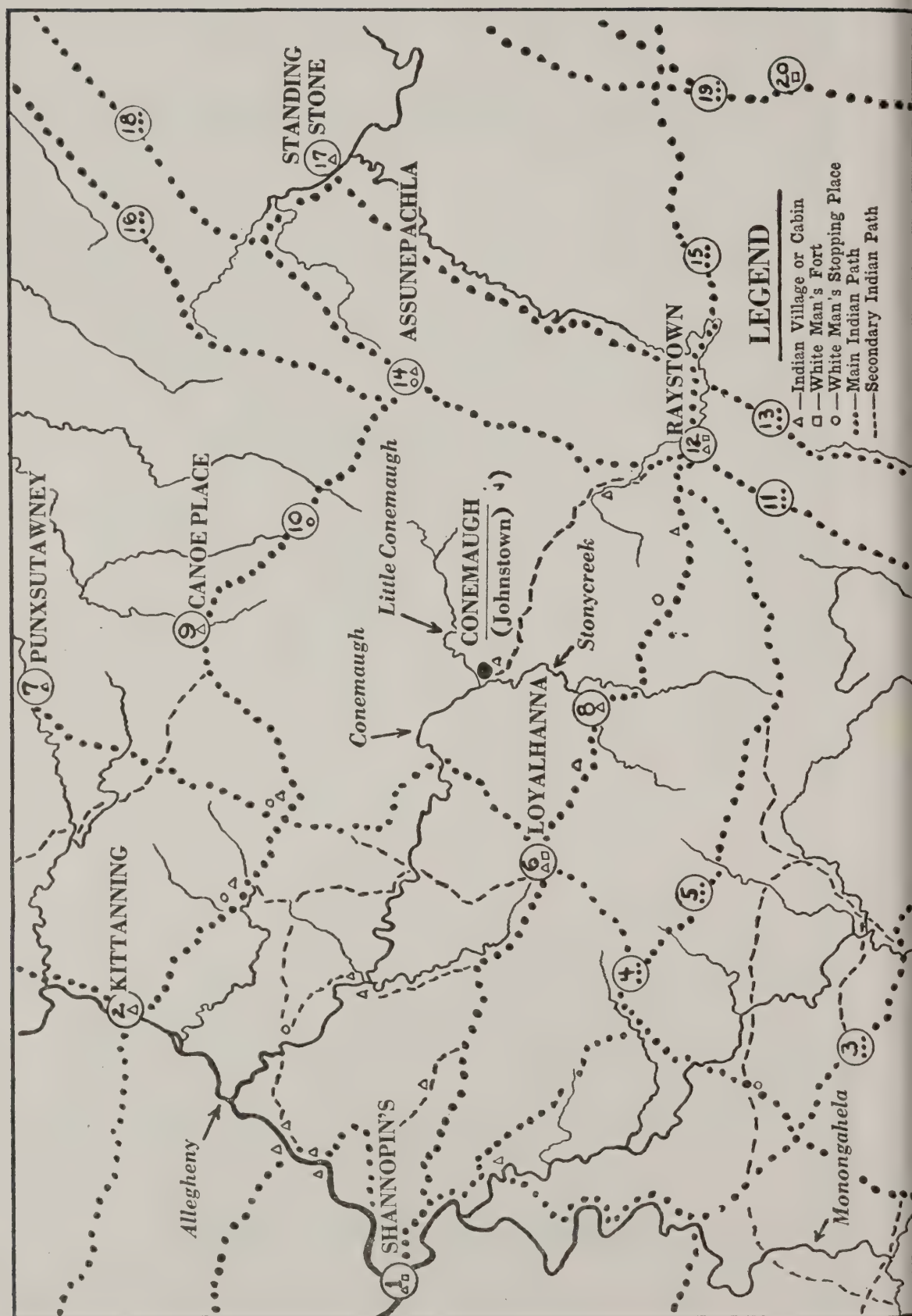
After reading the article, a newcomer to the wonders and comforts of Bedford, Pennsylvania, smiled and said:

“Yep, and see Bedford and relax.”

WHETHER YOU ARE A RESIDENT OF BEDFORD, PA.
OR JUST A VISITOR YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND
PROMPT AND COURTEOUS ATTENTION AWAITING
YOU AT

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

IN BEDFORD, PA.



NEW BEDFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

This village of 500 families in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania, was named for Dr. Nathaniel Bedford who owned about twelve 400-acre tracts of land. The doctor was deceased by the time the town site was surveyed in 1818. The first log house was built in 1796 by Joseph and Thomas Black.

New Bedford is located on hilly terrain that affords good views of scenery in all directions. The town also boasts several mineral springs with waters having the same properties as the famous springs in Bedford, Pennsylvania, farther to the east.

Most breadwinners in the town are employed in New Castle and Sharon, Pennsylvania, or Youngstown, Ohio. Farms of the area also provide employment.

The town itself boasts three stores, auto repair shop, two building supply dealers and a feed store. It covers about four square miles in size.

U. S. Route 422 formerly passed through New Bedford, but now has been relocated and is situated one-half mile south of the town area. Pennsylvania routes 278 and 937 are located in the community.

In June, 1818, the town site was laid out by Daniel Inbody and surveyed by James McCready. On April 23, 1852, it was incorporated as a borough, but this was discontinued January 1, 1861, and the area now is under the township trustees.

—Johnstown Tribune-Democrat

The map on the opposite page shows the main Indian trails in the area about Raystown, (Bedford, Pa.) in the early days of the state. Places and routes of importance were: 1—Shannopin's, which became the site of Fort Duquesne and later Fort Pitt; 2—Kittanning, the Indian stronghold; 3—Nemacolin's path; 4—Catawba path; 5—Glades path; 6—Ligonier; 7—Punxsutawney, near where the Catawba path joined the Great Shamokin path; 8—Kickenapaulin's Old Town, present site of the Quemahoning Dam; 9—Cherry Tree; 10—Kittanning path; 11—Warriors path; 12—Bedford; 13—Warriors path; 14—Frankstown; 15—Raystown path; 16—Bald Eagle path; 17—Huntingdon; 18—Frankstown path; 19—Tuscarora path; 20—Fort Loudon. The map was taken from one prepared for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission by Paul A. Wallace.

BEDFORD, TENNESSEE

One of Bedford's more famous citizens was Old John Brittain, a Negro who was 87 years of age when he died several years ago. Old John, a clown and actor, travelled for years with Ringling Brothers Circus.

Some of his stunts included taking red hot coals in his hands and then eating them without any apparent harm. He climbed telephone poles backwards and when he reached the top he would stand on his head.

Another stunt was to cut off the tops of trees and then be standing on his head on the tree butt before the top crashed to the ground.

Old John never rode, but trotted, to town and whipped himself just as he might a horse. He could beat a horse anytime and would be waiting in town for those on horses who raced him.

He also could make the most vicious dog behave. He was known to grab a bulldog by the ears and bite him on the nose. When Old John turned the dog loose, its owner had to offer a reward to find him later.

Or so say the legends, anyway.

This then was just one resident of Bedford, Tennessee, located in Bedford County on Route No. 1 out of Shelbyville. Like many another Bedford, this town also gets its name from sources that are disputed.

One theory is that the town was named for Thomas A. Bedford after whom the county was named. Another says it is named for Nathan Bedford Forrest, famous cavalry officer who was named after the county.

Be that as it may, Bedford today has one store, one church and one school house. Bedford County has a population of about 24,000.

Bedford also has been known as "Fleaburg" according to one story. This story says the "damned yankees" were being chased by General Forrest's cavalry when the northerners were forced to camp near Bedford. Here old barns were infested with fleas that literally covered the soldiers from the north.

Thus the northerners dubbed the town "Fleeburg", a name which prevailed for some time.

Bedford County was erected by an act of general assembly December 3, 1807. It is named for the Revolutionary War captain, Thomas A. Bedford.

Originally, Bedford County covered large sections of Marshall, Coffee and Franklin Counties and all of Moore and Lincoln Counties. This was about 1/20th of the state and about four times the county's present size.

The assembly, meeting in Knoxville, also provided that court should be held for the new county in the home of a Mrs. Payne. When Lincoln County was formed in 1809, the home of Widow Payne was put in that county.

The first county site was located in what now is Moore County. Its exact location was about a half-mile northeast of the little village of County Line, about three miles north of Lynchburg, on what was known as the old William Stone farm.

Later a county site was established temporarily in the house of Amos Balch, on the Lewisburg Pike.

In May, 1810, the county headquarters were located permanently at Shelbyville. One hundred acres of ground were donated for that purpose by Clement Cannon. Other offers of land were turned down because of Shelbyville's more central location.

Bedford County was decreased in size by the formation of Coffee County in 1836 on the east and formation of Marshall County on the west in 1837.

Today's Bedford County, about 475 square miles in size, is bounded on the north by Rutherford County, northeast by Cannon County, east by Cannon and Coffee Counties, south by Moore and Lincoln Counties and west by Marshall County.

The first courthouse was constructed in 1810 or 1811. It was a wooden building containing four rooms with a corridor in the center. It was located on the northwest corner of the square, opposite the Methodist Church.

A second building, of brick, was built a few years later and stood in the middle of the square. This building was de-

stroyed by a tornado in 1830. The cupola was taken to Horse Mountain by the winds.

The next two courthouses were destroyed by fire. The first of these, a two-story brick structure on the site of the tornado-destroyed building, was burned in 1863. A large portion of county records also were lost in the fire.

A party of Confederate soldiers had taken quarters in the courthouse and because of their carelessness, the building was burned to the ground.

The next building was begun in 1869 and was completed in 1873. It was leveled by fire December 19, 1934. The fifth and present courthouse was completed in December, 1936. It is a replica of the one destroyed in 1934.

When Tennessee was nearing statehood, rumor says that commissioners, assigned to locate the capital, came within three votes of making Bedford the state capital. This was between 1790 and 1800.

Shelbyville was established in 1810 as the county seat of Bedford County. The land upon which the town was located was deeded May 2, 1810, and registered June 22, 1811. The town was laid off at once in lots and sold at auction to the highest bidders.

Shelbyville is the headquarters for the annual Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration which each year attracts thousands of persons.

IN THE HEART OF A

HISTORIC AND FRIENDLY TOWN

HOTEL WASHINGTON

PITT AND JULIANA STREET

BEDFORD, PA.

BEDFORD, TEXAS

This community, in Tarrant County, was established in the 1870s by a group of persons from Bedford County, Tennessee. It is from this Tennessee area that Bedford, Texas, gets its name.

Bedford is one of the earliest settlements in the county. In the late 1800s and the early 1900s it was a prosperous community with several business houses and cotton gins. It also had a small college which produced several outstanding professors for the state school system.

From 1910 to 1940, when the trend was toward moving into the larger cities, Bedford just about held its own.

In 1952, the town was incorporated and now has a population of 500. Located in northcentral Texas, it is 14 miles northeast of Fort Worth and 20 miles west of Dallas.

The land is sandy loam and the country is rolling and partly wooded. The area has some truck farming and a number of dairies.

BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

When Bedford County was formed from Lunenburg and Albemarle Counties in 1754, it was named in honor of John Russell, Duke of Bedford, who was at that time the secretary of state for Great Britain. The county observed its bi-centennial during August, 1954.

The 1950 census showed Bedford County's population at 29,627, including Bedford town's 4,061 inhabitants.

As is true of other counties of Virginia, Bedford was formed because settlers had already come into its territory and were too far removed from the seat of government for their convenience due to the primitive means of travel at their disposal.

Lunenburg, the mother county, had been known as such only eight years, but its boundary was so extensive and its population increasing so rapidly that not only Bedford, but Halifax, Mecklenburg and Charlotte Counties were taken from its territory.



—Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Court House of Bedford County, Va.

Tracing its pedigree, it is found that Bedford was formed in 1754 from Lunenburg and a small portion of Albemarle added.

The act of the Virginia Assembly, or house of burgesses, which authorized the formation of this new county, was dated November, 1753. But it was not to become effective until May 10, 1754. It provided that "after the said tenth of May a court for the said County of Bedford be constantly held by the justices thereof upon the fourth Monday in every month."

(And for generations, "court day" on the fourth Monday was a Bedford County institution.)

Bedford County came into existence during the troubled era of the French and Indian Wars and it was necessary from the beginning to have militia for self-protection as well as to guard the frontiers from invasion by the Indians.

The rosters of those times show that this territory was by no means uninhabited when it became a county. In 1758, just four years after its formation, there were 300 men of military age enrolled for service.

Campbell County was taken from Bedford in 1782. Again, in 1786, Bedford gave of her territory for the formation of still another county, Franklin, to which Henry County also contributed. This left Bedford with 791 square miles of territory and it now ranks fifth in size in the state.

It is bounded on the north by the James River for a distance of 18 miles, on the south by Staunton River for 20 miles, on the east by Campbell County for 21 miles and on the west by the counties of Roanoke, Betetourt and Rockbridge. The county itself is about 25 miles in length, east to west, and about 25 miles wide on the average.

The county lies in the highest part of the Piedmont Plateau. The rolling uplands in its southern half average about 800 feet in altitude. In the northern and western parts, there are many high peaks.

Sharp Top and Flat Top, the famous twin peaks of Otter, rise to 3,875 and 4,001 feet, respectively. Headformost Mountain is 3,779 feet; Onion Mountain is 3,828 feet and Apple

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Orchard Mountain is 4,224 feet.

The Blue Ridge Parkway runs along the crest of Bedford's western border. The road through the James River Gorge (Route 501) is considered one of Virginia's most scenic drives.

Here, also, one may see the Jefferson National Forest which extends into the northwestern corner of the county. For the tourist, it is well to know temperature averages 36 degrees in January and 79 degrees in July. Precipitation is about 45 inches each year.

Bedford town itself is noted for its healthful climate and beautiful location. Situated here is the Elks National Home, a large and well-equipped institution. The town of Bedford has a municipal recreation program of sports, games, handicrafts, singing and other group activities.

In other county communities, recreation programs are sponsored by schools, churches, 4-H Clubs and civic and social organizations. There are many semi-professional baseball teams in the county.

Bedford County Park, on North Otter Creek, at the foot of Onion Mountain, embraces more than 300 acres and has a large lake for swimming, boating and fishing.

One of the recreational areas along the Blue Ridge Parkway is at the Peaks of Otter where a sightseeing bus makes trips to the top of Sharp Top. Not more than a hundred miles north of this point, the Parkway reaches Shenandoah National Park. In early June the purple rhododendron is particularly lovely along this section of the drive.

Another beautiful sidetrip for the visitor, or for the resident alike, is Route 501 which follows the James River Gorge. Throughout the whole area are numerous places for picnics and hiking tours.

For the athletic, there is a golf club near the town of Bedford. For those who like their action on a more leisurely scale, the Bedford County Museum is located in the Bedford Public Library. Featured are exhibits of historical items, artifacts, war souvenirs and modern arts and crafts.

A place of special interest is "Poplar Forest." This is



National Elks Home at Bedford, Va.

—Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Thomas Jefferson's summer home near Lynchburg. The beautiful old manor stands near the boundary line between Bedford and Campbell Counties about seven miles west of Lynchburg.

The manor was built by Jefferson, then president of the United States, as a retreat to which he could go when affairs of state became burdensome or when he wished to escape from the lavish hospitality of Monticello.

His idea for a home here, he said, was conceived much earlier, when he was confined for three days in one of two rooms of his overseer's cabin during a long rainy spell.

Bedford is an important agricultural county. Its soil is varied and is suitable for a variety of crops. The mountain soil is of a dark chocolate color and is rich in vegetable matter. This soil produces successfully the cereal crops, but seems even better adapted to cabbage and Irish potatoes and is unsurpassed for apples.

The soil adjacent to this is known throughout Virginia for its general adaptability to crops of every kind—cereals, grasses, tobacco, fruits and vegetables. Heavy crops of corn are grown on these lands, in many cases surpassing the rich yield of creek and river bottoms.

On the south side of the county is the light gray soil, underlaid with red clay which gives it a bottom and renders it susceptible and retentive of high improvement. The principal crops here are the cereals, grasses and a very fine grade of tobacco. Fruits succeed well also, especially peaches.

Tobacco once was the chief cash crop and still is widely raised. But in the past 25 years, dairying and livestock (beef cattle, hogs and sheep) have become the biggest source of income.

In dairying, Bedford is among Virginia's leaders.

There are convenient markets for dairy products and for meat animals in the nearby cities of Roanoke and Lynchburg as well as in Bedford itself.

Tomatoes, also, once were raised in quantity in this area and canned locally. Since 1945, however, tomato acreage has

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dropped sharply. With the continued increase in livestock production, there is a need for more grain and pasture crops.

Manufactured products include rayon and woolen fabrics, lumber, wooden handles, furniture, rubber goods, lithographed labels, commercial printing, pulp and paperboard, canned tomatoes, dairy products, ferrochrome and ground feldspar.

The town of Bedford has the greatest concentration of manufacturing plants, but sawmills and canneries are scattered throughout the county and there are several plants in the James River towns of Big Island and Holcombs Rock.

Approximately 47 per cent of Bedford County's total area is wooded and it is one of Virginia's leading pulpwood counties. The county has approximately 232,800 acres of commercial forest, exclusive of public reserved and other non-commercial forest land.

About one-third (34 per cent) of the timber is soft wood, such as Virginia pine, shortleaf pine, white pine, red cedar and other softwoods. Remainder is hardwood such as white oak, red oak, yellow poplar and hickory.

The Virginia Forest Service estimated the annual growth amounts to 23,772,000 board feet while the annual drain is 21,264,000 board feet.

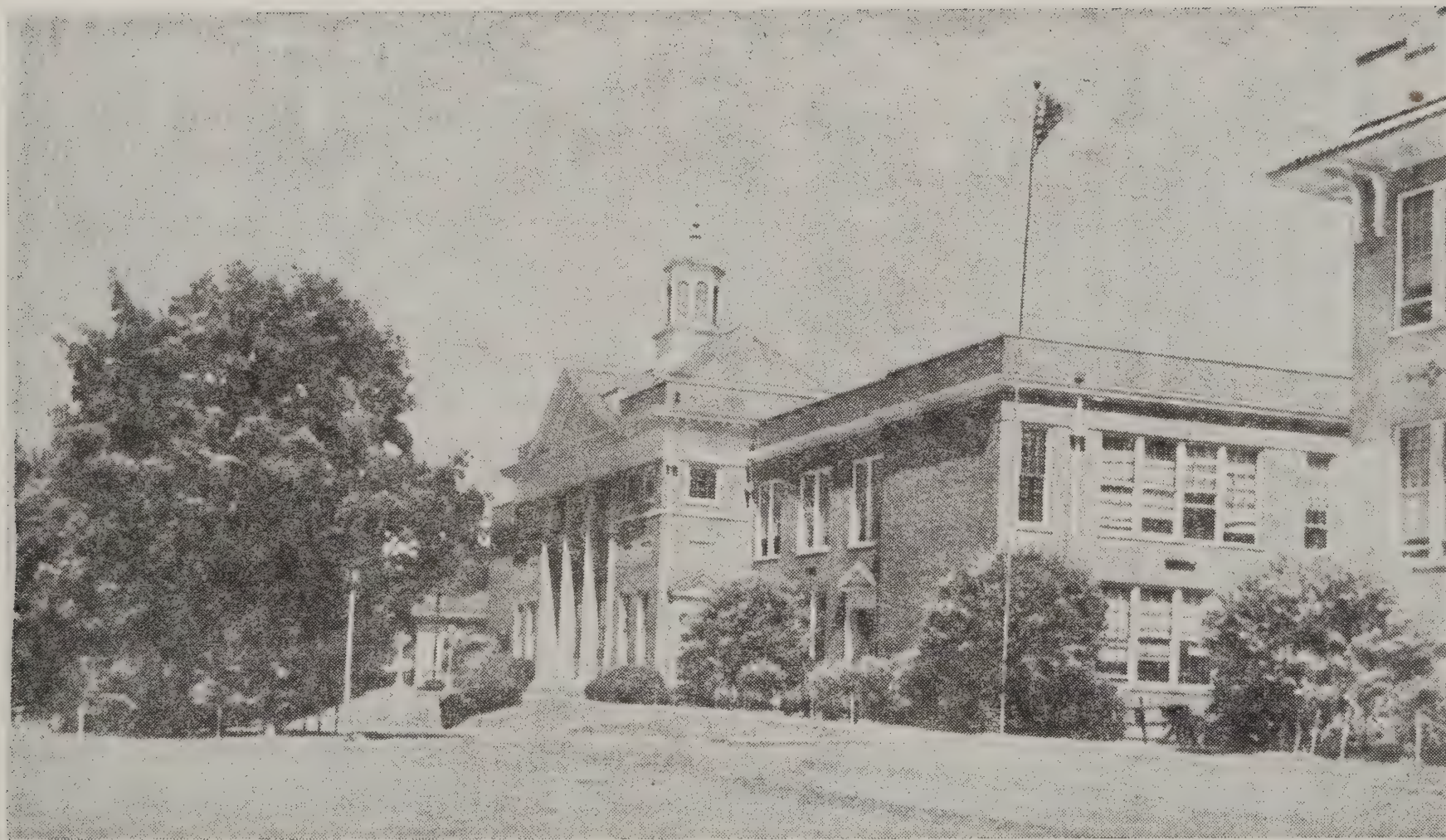
Bedford County originally was one of the best-timbered sections of the state.

It was not unusual, during earlier times, to see the finest timbered lands cleared for tobacco. Enough rails to fence the cleared land were split from the best of the timber. The rest was collected in piles and burned. This was called "burning a new ground" and this process of destruction has been continued, in a lessening degree, even down to the present day.

The United States Government has purchased large areas of forest lands in the mountains and included them in the Natural Bridge National Forest.

Mountain streams of the county are well-supplied with beautiful spotted trout. In the lowland streams are found suckers, perch, carp, pike, black bass, mullet, catfish and other varieties.

Wild animals nearby are bear and deer occasionally with



High School in Bedford, Va.

—Virginia Chamber of Commerce

lynx, mink, weasel, beaver, muskrat and groundhog more frequently.

In great abundance are fox, raccoon, opossum, skunk, wild-cat, rabbit and squirrel. Wild fowl are geese, ducks and snipe and turkeys on higher ground. But the most beautiful and appetizing of all game birds are the quail, or partridge, which are protected by rigid laws.

The county is rich in minerals of which feldspar, mica, barite, granite, limestone and ochre are commercially valuable at present.

One of the largest deposits of feldspar in the state occurs in the Moneta-Bells district in a pegmatite body from 2½ to 5 miles wide. It extends across the east-central part of Bedford County from Roanoke River to the James River. Feldspar has been produced here intermittently since 1907.

On March 29, 1757, a court order authorized trustees of the county "to lay out the land belonging to said county in lots of half an acre each, as long again as wide, to be sold for 1 pound 1 shilling and 8 pence each, price to be paid on purchasing the lot, to the treasurer of the county, and that the trustees make a deed in fee simple to the purchasers with the proviso that they build a house 20 x 16 on such lot within one year after purchasing same, and a brick or stone chimney within four years. Otherwise, the said lot of land to revert to the county from the person failing to improve the same according to the said conveyance; and that the subscribers for the said lots, after being numbered, draw for their lots at May Court—and that the said town be called by the name of New London."

The plan for "New London Towne" is recorded in Deed Book A, and with it is a memorandum giving the names of purchasers.

The first courthouse, built by William Callaway in 1754, continued to serve its purpose, as far as is known, until 1766, when the July Court ordered that a building be erected upon the courthouse lot in New London Towne.

The most celebrated case ever tried in this courthouse was that of John Hook versus John Venable to recover damages for some steers taken for use of the Revolutionary army. Patrick

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Henry was attorney for the defendant and used his wonderful oratorical powers not only to "win" his case, but for the entertainment and amusement of his hearers. The legal record, still preserved in the clerk's office of Franklin County, Virginia, shows the verdict was "for the plaintiff, one penny damages."

In the yard immediately across from the entrance to the Bedford Springs Hotel is an old locust tree covered with English ivy, which, tradition says, was where Patrick Henry tied his horse upon this occasion. (It is also said there are cannon balls imbedded in this tree—shot there by Tarleton's men.)

By the end of the Revolution, New London had attained considerable importance both as a town and as a shopping center. It boasted an arsenal, kept under guard by soldiers; several mercantile establishments; a tavern and many residences. There were in all, about 70 or 80 buildings.

New London was the largest town in all this part of the state. Since it was the seat of one of the district courts, it attracted not only justices, lawyers, witnesses and jurors, but was also the social center for this section of the state as well.

County court day, held on the fourth Monday of each month, sometimes lasted two or three days. It was the big time of the month and all who could do so, came to New London on that day. Justices from the remote parts of the county started the day before and spent the night with friends on the way, especially if they were accompanied by their wives, as was frequently the case, since New London contained the only stores within reach.

Trappers and hunters came afoot and on horseback, bringing furs, or perhaps wolves' heads to secure the bounty offered by the court. Others came to meet friends, to transact business or simply to enjoy the social intercourse.

Liquors flowed freely at the tavern directly across from the courthouse and at another not far from it. Some imbibed too freely and were thereafter in custody of friends or the jailor. There is mention of one court session which had to be postponed for two hours until an unnamed justice had time to sober up.

At 10 a. m., when court convened, the coach of "Jemmy"

Steptoe, clerk of the county from 1772 to 1826, would arrive at the courthouse steps. When he had alighted and the coach had pulled away, Jemmy would turn to the front, sweep off his hat with a flourish and march in.

This was the signal for the justices to file in behind him and for the sheriff to take his position near the front, blow a blast upon his trumpet and make the announcement that court now was in session.

This gathering in New London on court day must have been a colorful sight, for the gentlemen justices alone, to say nothing of the ladies, were dressed in colored silk velvet or broadcloth coats, knee breeches and silk stockings.

In 1782 when Campbell County was taken from Bedford and its boundary established, it was found that New London was in Campbell's territory. Thus it became necessary for Bedford County to have a new county seat.

William Callaway, Jr., was commissioned by the court to make a survey of the county to find its center. When he had done this, a committee was named to view a place for the courthouse and other public buildings. The committee reported at the July, 1782, session of court that William Downey and Joseph Fuqua were willing to donate 100 acres of land for the purpose. The report was adopted and a contract was let for the new building which was to be 20 by 30 feet.

Court was held in this new edifice August 25, 1782.

A plan for the town, embracing the 100 acres, was laid out at once. In October, 1782, the general assembly of Virginia passed an act vesting the title to the 100 acres in certain trustees for the benefit of the county, and thereby established a town, to which the name Liberty was given.

Liberty was incorporated by an act of general assembly March 28, 1839, when boundaries were established and an election held for mayor and councilmen.

The courthouse built in 1782 soon proved to be too small for the county's needs. The records show that on September 24, 1787, the court ordered a new brick building to be erected. This building was received by the court July 27, 1789, and the lot on which the courthouse stood was ordered to be sold.

The new building, legend says, was so close to the street that the noise of conversation and the passing vehicles was so annoying that in 1833 it was torn down and a new and larger courthouse was constructed. Provision was made for a temporary courthouse and clerk's office during erection of the building, so it evidently was built upon the site of its predecessor.

This building was a two-story brick building of colonial design, set back from the street about 30 feet. The ground floor was used as offices for the county officials while the courtroom occupied the second floor. Stone steps with iron railings led up to the portico which was ornamented with large white pillars. Wings on either side of the main building were used for the clerks' offices on the east and the lawyers' offices on the west.

This building served until 1930, not only as a temple of justice, but frequently as a house of worship. It was with profound regret on the part of many citizens of both town and county that it had to be razed to give place to the splendid courthouse that Bedford now enjoys.

Liberty apparently was a very austere place in 1861 when a historian said it was a quiet and unpretentious town. The streets were paved with poor material and only for a short distance. The storehouses were inconvenient wooden buildings and without any apparatus for heating them, except for the "counting room" which was off limits to most customers.

The one drug store did little business and there was no soda fountain. There were no livery stables since people owned few carriages and most walked to their places of business. It was almost unheard of for someone to ride out in an evening for health or pleasure.

The one butcher in town would go out and buy a beef. After driving it home, he would butcher it about nightfall. Then next morning about 4 a. m., all who wanted meat would go to the butchering place and buy it. The market then closed about 6 a. m.

Until 1890, the town had no means of illumination other

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TURNER'S NEWS

S. JULIANA STREET

BEDFORD, PA.

than kerosene lamps. These lamps, each holding one night's supply of oil, were erected upon tall posts along the sidewalks. When the moon did not shine brightly at night, people carried their own lanterns.

On Sunday morning, October 12, 1884, fire swept Liberty along Bridge Street. The town was helpless in the emergency since there was no water supply other than springs and wells. As soon as the first shock of the fire disaster was over, the city fathers set about finding a new water supply. Springs were located on the south side of the Peaks of Otter and their waters were brought together, the stream dammed and the water piped to town.

As the town has grown it has become necessary, from time to time, to include other springs along the mountains, east of the Peaks. A modern filtration plant and two large reservoirs have been erected and today Bedford enjoys as good water as can be found anywhere, but still not in sufficient quantity for the town's growth. This is expected to be remedied by a \$750,000 water supply program.

During 1890, the "year of the boom", and despite the protest of many of the older and more conservative citizens, the name of the town was changed, for advertising purposes, from Liberty to Bedford City.

The land boom swept all this part of Virginia and during its short duration, real estate offices were as numerous on the streets as garages and service stations are today. The showiest horses and vehicles that could be obtained were used to carry prospective buyers out to see the newly laid off parks, drives and mansion sites. The whole town was in a fever of excitement.

Land companies had been organized and vacant lands, both in town and in the suburbs, had been purchased and cut into streets and city lots; residences had sprung up in many sections and a handsome hotel was erected of brownstone and shingles at a cost of \$100,000.

When the promoters and speculators began to count their profits they discovered nobody had made anything. The name of the town had been discarded, valuable farm lands had been

cut into streets and were already washing into gullies, both banks had failed, many people were hopelessly in debt and general chaos prevailed.

It was many years before the town recovered from this debacle to grow into the pleasant, prosperous city that Bedford, Virginia, is today.

BEDFORD, WEST VIRGINIA

Located in Kanawha County, this is a freight station on the Paint Creek Branch of the Huntington Division, Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. It is located between Standard and Glenhuddy.

BEDFORD, WYOMING

With a population of about 400, Bedford is situated on the Wyoming-Idaho border in Lincoln County. It was named for Bedford County, Virginia. Main industries are dairying and sheep raising. Forests also are abundant.

About 1877, part of the Salt River Valley of the Rocky Mountains was used as a herd ground for cattle by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). Bishop William B. Preston advised young men herding the cattle to take up land in the area. He and a son, together with three other men, followed this advice.

The first two houses were built at the expense of Bishop Preston on Strawberry Creek, about a half-mile east of the present town site. The permanent settlement took place in 1890.

A native of Bedford County, Virginia, Bishop Preston suggested the settlement be named for his home area.

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SHIPS NAMED BEDFORD

Three ships of the United States Navy have carried the name of Bedford.

A cargo ship, USS Bedford Victory (AK-231) had a distinguished record during World War II. Commissioned in November, 1944, she was named for Bedford, Indiana. She saw service in the Pacific Fleet and carried ammunition to Leyte, Saipan, Guam, Ulithi and Okinawa. She was decommissioned in 1945 and returned to service with the Maritime Commission.

The USS Perseverance (PYC-44) was first known as the Bedford and later as the Condor. When the Navy got the ship in 1943, she was named Perseverance and carried that name until she was disposed of through the Foreign Liquidation Commission under a directive of May, 1946.

The USS YP-435, acquired by the Navy in June, 1942, also formerly known as the Bedford, was returned to her owners in February, 1944.

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